JUDGE DREDD

Screenplay draft by

Steven E. de Souza

Story by

William Wisher and Walon Green

SECOND DRAFT
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JUDGE DREDD

FADE IN:

BLACK SCREEN.

NARRATOR
In the third millennium, the world... changed.

1 MONTAGE (STOCK - IF DESIRED) 1

Vicious events, both natural and man-made. Earthquakes. Floods. Ice storms. War. Riots. Chaos and injustice.

NARRATOR(cont'd)
Climate. Nations. Borders. All were in upheaval. Humanity itself turned as violent as the planet. Civilization threatened to collapse. And then... a solution was found. The crumbling, teetering legal system was merged with the overburdened police, creating a powerful and efficient hybrid. Trained equally in jurisprudence and combat, these new guardians (X)
of Society could dispense both justice and punishment. They were (X)
police, jury and executioner, all in one. They were... The Judges.

2 thru 4 OMITTED 2 thru 4

5 EXT. WASTELAND - DAY 5

It looks like the beginning of time... or its end. Nothing grows here. Nothing could. This is the CURSED EARTH. With a WHIRR, a SHUTTLE appears in the sky. We PAN it to a GIANT CITY WALL. A LOCK-LIKE GATE chugs open. The shuttle ENTERS.

6 INT. CITY LOCK - DAY 6

As the massive craft settles, it is sprayed down by HI-POWERED JETS. Brown dirt drips away to show eroding metal and the LOGO: "MEGA-CITY JUDGE SYSTEM - ASPEN PRISON SHUTTLE #3."

P.A. SYSTEM
ASPEN PRISON SHUTTLE DOCKED. (X)
PAROLEES, PREPARE TO DISEMBARK. (X)

The shuttle's air lock port whooses OPEN. A line of drably (X)
dressed men and women exit, carrying their few possessions. (X)

7 THE CITY LOCK - INNER GATE TO CITY - DAY 7

One by one the parolees return to society. We follow the last: HERMAN FERGUSON ("FERGIE"). Fergie's a genius - a genius without common sense, street smarts, or muscle tone. So his career as a master criminal has gone absolutely nowhere.

GATE GUARD
(scanning him)
Ferguson, Herman. Six month sentence Aspen Prison served. Welcome back, Citizen. Your living assignment is Block Y, "Heavenly Haven", Red Quad. Watch it or your ass will be back in Aspen. (X) (X)

Fergie hurries through the gate. We follow him - as he stops in his tracks. He's looking at

8 A MAGNIFICENT CITY 8

Giant towers reach miles into the sky. Elevated skyways are filled with traffic. Flying Barges and Shuttles service the highest levels. Dominating all is a building shaped like an EAGLE: The Hall of Justice. Almost lost and forgotten among (X) the towering buildings is a relic from our time: The Statue of (X) Liberty. Title Supered: (X)

MEGA-CITY ONE: 2539 (X)

Fergie takes another look at the gleaming city, and then his (X) papers. (X)

FERGIE (X)
Heavenly Haven. Sounds nice.

CUT TO:

9 EXT. HEAVENLY HAVEN BLOCK - DAY 9

And it is nice - a perfect Utopian future of happy families strolling through a green urban park. CAMERA WIDENS... and we realize that the scene is a "video poster" on a bleak and rubble-filled EMPTY LOT.

VIDEO POSTER
(taped V.O.)
--oming soon, the Heavenly Haven Pocket Park. Bringing fresh air and recreation to your lives. Another design for better living from the Mega-City Council. Coming soon, the Heavenly Haven Pocket Park. Bringing fresh air...

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

Surrounding the lot on all four sides are GIANT TENEMENTS. Weary, hungry and dirty RESIDENTS ("Rezzies") scurry by on errands both legal and not. (X)

10 NEW ANGLE - THE EMPTY LOT 10

A MUNICIPAL VEHICLE pulls up. A bored CITY TECH gets out, goes to the Video Poster Standee and turns it OFF in mid-spiel. The sudden silence attracts some attention. The TECH drops in a NEW VIDEO CART which begins to PLAY as he drives away. Rezzies gather around to watch the new video.

11 CLOSER - VIDEO POSTER 11

Showing a monolithic BUILDING on the empty lot.

VIDEO POSTER V.O.
Coming soon, the Heavenly Haven Law Enforcement Barracks, bringing surveillance and security to your lives. Another design for better living from the Mega City Council. (X)

12 REVERSE ANGLE 12

As this sinks in on the tenement residents.

FIRST RESIDENT
Our Park! They stole our park!

SECOND RESIDENT
Lying bastards!

FIRST RESIDENT
Lying Judges!

A BRICK gets tossed into the VIDEO SCREEN. As it SPARKS, the residents swarm, knocking it over - then the chain link fence around the lot starts to shake, heave and collapse -

13 INT. HEAVENLY HAVEN BLOCK TOWER - UPPER FLOOR - DAY 13

WIDEN from a sign on the door: THIS LEVEL CONDEMNED. Nonetheless a group of SQUATTERS is living here. Several GIGGLE, ingesting some future narcotic through tubes they stuff in their noses. Suddenly, SHOUTS and BREAKING GLASS rouse them from their stupor.

ZED, the meanest looking squatter, goes to the window, curious.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: 13

ZED
Hey, Homies. The rezzies are going mental.
(giggling)
Let's give 'em a hand.

As the others start to take out weapons, we (X)

CUT TO:

14 thru 16 OMITTED 14 thru 16

17 INT. TAXI SHUTTLE - IN FLIGHT - DUSK 17

Fergie's jammed in with other lower economic PASSENGERS. He sees a terrace pool where a number of girls are frolicking. He waves at the girls, speaks to the Shuttle DRIVER.

FERGIE
Right down there... I think that's Heavenly Haven.

No such luck. The craft BANKS.

18 EXT. TAXI SHUTTLE - NIGHT 18

As it descends, the structures it passes grow progressively older. Filth and grime cover everything. The shuttle lands on the street with a WHOOSH. (X)

19 FERGIE 19

The minute he gets out the shuttle lifts off. Fergie looks around, sighs.

FERGIE
Still better than prison.

BRAT-TAT-TAT! Suddenly GUNFIRE erupts all around him. He looks in astonishment at

20 SEVERAL WINDOWS - HIS P.O.V. 20

As more and more frustrated residents OPEN FIRE at anything and everything.

VOICES
BLOCK WAR! BLOCK WAR! BLOCK WAR!

Fergie runs into the building.

1 INT. HEAVENLY HAVEN TOWER - NIGHT 1

People run in panic as bullets shatter windows. A BATTERED ROBOT FOOD CART cruises the hallway, oblivious to the people darting around it.

ROBOT FOOD CART
(a recording)
Delicious and healthful ration packs, piping hot and ready to eat..!

Fergie darts around the robot, SEES a small MAINTENANCE HATCH in the wall and jumps inside. His long HOWL tells us he didn't expect the long fall that results. (X)

CUT TO:

22 EXT. HEAVENLY HAVEN BLOCK - STREET LEVEL 22

A resident breaks for cover, tries to run across the street. BHUDDA-BHUDDA-BHUDDA. He's cut down midway.

23 INT. HEAVENLY HAVEN TOWERS - THE SQUATTERS 23

Have spread out and are firing from the windows of several adjoining rooms.

ZED
Did you see that! What a fucking shot! What a fucking shot - !

Reggie hi-fives him. Then an overhead THUD makes them look up at the HEATING VENT. Zed reaches up - yanks off the grate -

24 NEW ANGLE 24

Fergie tumbles into the room. Zed puts one foot on him, points his gun right between his eyes.

ZED
What do we have here? You a Judge, little man?

The others laugh at the concept.

FERGIE
Me, a Judge, no, no -
(showing papers)
I live here, I mean, I'm gonna live here - if - if I live - (X)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

24

3RD SQUATTER (TWIST)
If you're a rezzie, then why are you hiding? This is a block war, man!

They grab him, playing roughly with him.

ZED
You gonna stand up for your block, ain't ya?

FERGIE
Look, I'm out on parole - If I get into any trouble my ass is right back in Aspen -

CLICK. Zed's gun is in his face.

FERGIE(cont'd)
(quickly, cheerleading)
Let's go, Haven, Let's go Haven, Haven all the way -

BANANA CLIPS are shoved into his hands along with boxes of cartridges.

REGGIE
Reload, dipshit.

BULLETS rip through the windows here. Fergie ducks, terrified... drops the bullets.

CUT TO:

25 EXT. STREET LEVEL - NIGHT - CLOSE ON TWO FIGURES 25

wearing armored uniforms, riding ARMORED MOTORCYCLES called LAWMASTERS. Both riders wear HELMETS that conceal most of their faces. But we can see that the leader is a woman. Her badge reads "Hershey". Suddenly BULLETS ping around her. Several ricochet off the armored bike.

HERSHEY
Take cover!

26 WIDER 26

As bullets seek them out, both riders dive off their bikes and roll into combat positions behind a low wall. Hershey's partner BRISCO is young and eager... too eager.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

BRISCO
(behind barricade)
Just like an Academy Simulation, right down to the crossfire.
(rising)
I'll lead off, you follow.

HERSHEY
(yanking him back)
This isn't a Sim, Rookie! Stand down and wait for back up!
(into helmet mike)
In position outside Heavenly Haven. Pinned down by fire from upper floors.

CUT TO:

27 EXT. VIEW OVER MEGA - NIGHT 27

A figure close to CAMERA straddles an even bigger LAWMASTER CYCLE that makes a Harley look like a mo-ped. The rider's GLOVED HAND activates the Lawmaster's CITY MAP.

HERSHEY(V.O.)
Fire is coming from Level Y, repeat Y. Request back-up, nearest Judge!

The map BEEPS, shows a route. The hand moves to the THROTTLE.

28 LAWMASTER - WIDER 28

It ROARS away from the CAMERA, burning rubber.

CUT TO:

29 EXT. STREET - BLOCK WAR - NIGHT 29

Hershey and Brisco are pinned down under a barrage of fire. Smoke fills the street, the sounds of automatic weapons fire, exploding glass, and screams, fill the air. Hershey tries to get a shot off - a bullet CRACKS her face plate -

CUT TO:

30 THAT ONCOMING LAWMASTER 30

Whips around a corner - dodges a burned out vehicle. The mighty bike VAULTS the barricades and lands. A MOLOTOV COCKTAIL sails in front of it, EXPLODES. The rider does a WHEELIE!

1 UP ANGLE 31

The bike parts the flames like a curtain, SMASHES DOWN right in the middle of all the chaos. The Rider gets off.

32 HERSHEY AND BRISCO 32

huddle behind their bikes at the perimeter. They react to a figure emerging from the smoke.

BRISCO
That's our back-up? He's a sitting duck out there. You'd think he wants them to see him.

Hershey smiles ruefully.

HERSHEY
If that's who I think it is... he does.

33 THE FIGURE 33

Steps out of the flames. Six feet of armored justice, he was raised in a State Orphanage that taught him Duty and Honor. Now, he serves that State as Judge... Jury... and Executioner. His BADGE fills the frame: "DREDD".

CUT TO:

34 INT. SQUATTER'S LEVEL - NIGHT 34

Twist stares down, scared.

TWIST
Fuck. That's Judge Dredd. We gotta surrender while we can--

He starts to raise his gun over his head. Zed smacks him in the jaw with his own weapon.

ZED
You chickenshit bowab! He's gonna surrender to us. And then we'll blow his brains out.
(shouting)
Come and get us, Dredd!

Zed FIRES out the window. Reggie happily joins, then the others. Finally Twist shrugs, FIRES too.

REGGIE
More ammo!

A terrified Fergie hands him a clip.

35 EXT. THE STREET - NIGHT 35

The stream of GUNFIRE chews up the pavement at Dredd's feet.

HERSHEY
Down! You crazy futz - !

36 DREDD 36

strides calmly over to them.

DREDD
He's firing a 64 laze pumper from six hundred feet. He couldn't hit me if I painted a bull's eye on my ass.
(glancing up)
We'll keep it simple. Standard relay. Single file. I'm point.

Hershey nods. Brisco, eager to prove himself, steps in front of Dredd at the Heavenly Block entrance.

DREDD(cont'd)
You - last.

Dredd pushes Brisco behind Hershey. Turns toward Heavenly as he draws his massive LAWGIVER HANDGUN. Dredd speaks into the tiny computer in the breech as he aims at the door.

DREDD(cont'd)
Grenade.

KABOOM! The round knocks the steel door off its hinges. Dredd kicks it aside and the Judges enter.

CUT TO:

37 INT. HEAVENLY TOWERS - WITH THE SQUATTERS - NIGHT 37

Fergie, terrified, passes loaded ammo clips to his "friends". The WHIRR of a motor outside the hallway attracts his attention.

38 HIS POV - THE FOOD ROBOT - ON ITS ROUNDS 38

FOOD ROBOT
Delicious and healthful ration packs, piping hot and ready to eat..!

39 FERGIE 39

Looks at his crazed "friends" and then backs up to the robot...

CUT TO:

40 INT. HEAVENLY HAVEN CORRIDOR - NIGHT 40

Dredd, Hershey, and Brisco stride forward. SOUND of GUNFIRE tells them they are close to their target.

HERSHEY
(tentatively pointing)
I think they're there -

Dredd shakes his head... points...down.

DREDD
No. There.

CUT TO:

40A INT. SQUATTER'S ROOMS - NIGHT 40A

The squatters here are so busy FIRING their own guns out the window they don't SEE the CIRCLE OF BULLET HOLES that carve an opening above their heads!

With a CRASH, the section of ceiling FALLS IN - Dredd rides it down, FIRING!

40B NEW ANGLE 40B

His shots catch most of the shooters by surprise. The few survivors throw down their weapons.

DREDD
This room is pacified.

He moves carefully through the smoke. Behind him, Hershey and Brisco jump down to the floor, check the bodies. Hershey cuffs those still alive.

41 AT THE DOOR TO THE NEXT ROOM 41

Dredd avoids the door, moves along the wall. Suddenly Brisco darts forward.

BRISCO
This one's mine!

HERSHEY
No!

Dredd moves to stop him but he's too far away. Brisco kicks the door open -

IN THE NEXT SQUATTER'S ROOM 4

He's face to face with Reggie, Zed, and Twist.

BRISCO
This room is under--

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA! Brisco is blown backwards off his feet.

43 DREDD 43

spins around. Sees Brisco dead in the doorway. Snarls, enraged. Hershey whirls, KICKS down one of the wounded who tries to escape in the confusion.

44 IN THE OTHER ROOM 44

TWIST
(suddenly noticing)
Hey. Where's the little ammo dude?

As they all look for Fergie, the wall next to the door EXPLODES OPEN. Dredd enters through it.

DREDD
You're all under arrest. Will you surrender, or would you like your trials now?

They look at him for a moment - then BLAST away.

45 DREDD 45

Dives for cover, FIRES back - but one guy has a weapon as big as a chainsaw, and it's decimating Dredd's hiding place.

DREDD
(into Lawgiver)
Armor piercing! (X)

BEEP and LED change on the weapon. Dredd FIRES - (X)

46 HIS ENEMY 46

The bullet goes THROUGH his weapon, kills him! (X)

47 BACK TO SCENE 47

Dredd turns, sees Reggie and another squatter charging at him from both sides.

DREDD
(into Lawgiver)
Double Whammy!

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED: 47

BEEP. He FIRES. Two bullets come out at once, each taking out a man! But Reggie's body rolls into Dredd, knocking him off his feet! (X)

48 CLOSE ON DREDD 48

He's lost his Lawgiver! He reaches out for it - and gets kicked in the head! CAMERA ADJUSTS to show Twist, suddenly courageous with Dredd on the floor.

TWIST
(seeing it)
Lawgiver! Awesome!

And he snatches it up, and aims at Dredd's head!

49 WIDER 49

ZED
(shouting)
Don't touch it! They're booby trapped - !

Too late. A high pitched BEEP is the only warning before the handgun EXPLODES, knocking Zed off his feet.

50 NEW ANGLE 50

Zed starts to get up - sees Twist's ARM on his body! Screaming, he flings it aside and jumps up - right into Dredd's KICK.

DREDD
Mega-City Municipal Code 334.8.
Willful destruction of property.
That's two years.

WHAM. He hits Zed in the face. Zed rocks, but stays up. He tries to grab a nearby weapon, but Dredd kicks it away.

DREDD(cont'd)
Code 11-5C. Illegal possession of assault weapons. Five years.

Zed blocks Dredd's next blow - pulls him into a brutal embrace, slams Dredd against the wall. Again!

DREDD(cont'd)
Code 7034-A. Resisting arrest.
Twenty years.

Dredd breaks free! Slams Zed once, twice. Zed flies back against the wall.

FAVORING ZED

DREDD(cont'd)
9804. Assault on a Judge with deadly intent.

ZED
(tough, scornful)
Don't tell me. Life.

CAMERA REVEALS that Zed another weapon hidden behind his back. Now, he goes for it!

52 FAVORING DREDD 52

We weren't expecting Zed's move. Dredd was. While we were blinking, he kicked a fallen weapon up from the floor and caught it!

DREDD
No... Death.

He FIRES at the same moment as Zed! Zed's shot hits Dredd's ARMOR, pings off. Dredd's shot hits Zed's heart.

DREDD(cont'd)
Court is adjourned.

OMITTED 53

54 INT. HEAVENLY HAVEN CORRIDOR - NIGHT 54

Other Judges and paramedics have arrived. The Judges process arrestees and the paramedics see to the wounded.

Hershey looks on beside Dredd as Brisco's body is zipped into a bag and carried away.

HERSHEY
I was supposed to watch out for him.

DREDD
He made the mistake. Not you.

Dredd cocks his head, listening. Somehow in the din and confusion he has heard something. He turns.

55 NEW ANGLE 55

The food robot is coming down the corridor, skittering around bodies and debris.

Its actions are less smooth than before, and its voice seems off, too.

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED: 55

FOOD ROBOT
Ummm, umm, yumm! Healthful and nutritious food rations, ready to eat!

Dredd suddenly pushes forward in the crowd. Hershey follows. She watches, puzzled, as he steps in the automaton's path, takes an assault rifle from another Judge and AIMS it!

DREDD
(to robot)
Halt! You have ten seconds to surrender. Ten. Nine.

HERSHEY
(puzzled)
Dredd, It's just a servo-droid -

DREDD
(aside to Hershey)
The guide wire in the floor isn't working.
(to the robot)
Five! Four!

FOOD ROBOT
Ah, just put your credit in your selection and - credit in the slot and-and - shit!

The robot stops. The jumble of food in back spills out and Fergie uncoils from the cramped interior, still holding the sparking wires he was using to manipulate the machine.

DREDD
Mega-City Municipal Code 1286.4: Willful sabotage of a public servo-droid. That's six months, citizen.

He grabs Fergie, pushes him against the wall.

DREDD(cont'd)
(taking it)
Let's see your Unicard.

FERGIE
Come on, give me a break, Judge uh-
(seeing nametag)
D-dredd?

By now Dredd has run his scanner over Fergie's chip and Fergie's dossier is zipping by.

(CONTINUED)

75 CONTINUED: (2)

DREDD
FERGUSON, Herman. Forget six months: You've hacked into city droids, computers...
(reading, interested)
Cash machines, robot taxis... And you haven't even been out of jail for twenty four hours.
(to Hershey)
He's habitual, Hershey. Automatic five year sentence. (X)

FERGIE
Five years? But - I - I had no choice, Judge - !

He sees Dredd's impassive face, turns to Hershey's more sympathetic one.

FERGIE(cont'd)
They were killing each other up there, I had to get out! I only hacked the droid to save my life! It was the only way!

DREDD
Not at all. You could have climbed out a window, worked your way down. Or found a turboshaft and shimmied down the cable.

FERGIE
Sixty stories? It woulda been suicide!

DREDD
Maybe. But it would have been legal. I sentence you to five years in Aspen Penitentiary. Case closed. Take him away.

Still protesting, Fergie is hauled away. Hershey looks at Dredd.

HERSHEY
He might have been telling the truth. Haven't you ever heard of extenuating circumstances?

DREDD
Yes. And cowardice isn't one of them.

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED: (3) 55

She looks at Dredd disappointingly and we (X)

CUT TO:

55A EXT. HALL OF JUSTICE - NIGHT 55A

The gleaming civil and legal heart of Mega-City, shaped like the symbol of the Judge System itself: An Eagle. (X) (X)

VOICE (GRIFFIN)
My fellow Judges, have we forgotten the lessons of History? (X) (X) (X)

55B INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - COUNCIL CHAMBER - NIGHT 55B

The CAMERA discovers the Mega-City Council of Judges, in mid-session. CHIEF JUSTICE FARGO, 70, sits at an elevated position at a great BLACK TABLE. Other Judges sit on either side of him. Among them are JUDGE MCGRUDER, a woman in her 60's, open minded but with an iron will; JUDGE ESPOSITO, 50's, thoughtful, accommodating; JUDGE YAMAMOTO, 50's, short-tempered, yet fair; and JUDGE GRIFFIN, 60, with a mind and body as honed as men half his age, his clean features can hide much. But now, they hide nothing: His passion and sincerity make his words ring. (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X)

GRIFFIN(cont'd)
A Republic is a body politic that is susceptible to many ills... from ennui to anarchy. And the block war today was a definite warning sign of - (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X)

The assembly REACTS as rowdily as the British Parliament. (X)

MCGRUDER
- of your misguided policies as Urban Administrator! (X) (X) (X)

YAMAMOTO
Hold on, Judge McGruder - let's not blame the messenger! Judge Griffin has -

ESPOSITO
- Griffin has been trying to get us to swallow his crime package for two years now and I still have indigestion - ! (X)

UPROAR. We sense that the room is evenly divided. A GAVEL BANGS for order with a CRACK like thunder. Everyone quiets as quickly as schoolchildren..

C FAVORING FARGO

55

FARGO
Order, order! As presiding Justice, I only vote to break a tie. But I wish to address the question of Judge Griffin's crime package. Is there any objection?

GRIFFIN
This entire body owes its very existence to you, Chief Justice.
(looking around)
I can't imagine anyone having an objection. (X)

CAMERA sweeps towards Fargo, passing over the MAP of North America etched on the great DAIS. Only a few lights stand out on all the continent: MEGA-CITY ONE; MEGA-CITY TWO; TEXAS CITY; and the ASPEN PENAL COLONY. All the rest is labeled THE CURSED EARTH. (X) (X) (X) (X) (X)

Fargo stands, eyes blazing with intelligence and intensity. We sense that we are observing a Lion in Winter. And the lion can still roar. (X)

FARGO
This body is not the first assembly to think that more laws and fewer choices will bring peace and order. (X) That delusion has been tried and failed before. If the citizens of Mega-City are demanding more control of their lives, that's not a threat - it's a signal! A signal to open the windows of our society and let it breathe -
(a look to Griffin)
Not to bolt the door and throw away the key! My fellow Judges, I was barely in my teens when I put on this badge. When the time comes for me to take it off... let me do it knowing that it stood for Freedom... and not for Repression. (X)

He sits down. Clearly he has changed the mood of the room.

JUDGE GRIFFIN
Once again, Chief Justice, you have served as a moral compass for all of us. I... withdraw my proposal.
(pause)
I hope... for good.

CUT TO:

56 INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT 56

Dredd is watching a MONITOR. VARDIS HAMMOND, grey-haired, commanding, is standing in front of Heavenly Haven Block while workers put things back in order.

HAMMOND (on monitor)
--fifty three people hospitalized. (X)
Five of them... children. Nine (X)
dead... four of them allegedly (X)
killed by a gang of squatters... (X)
who were themselves killed in (X)
summary executions by Judge Dredd. (X)

CAMERA WIDENS as the Council Chamber doors OPEN. The Judges come out. Griffin comes over, watches with Dredd. Dredd stiffens at the approach of his superior. Griffin silently indicates for him to stand at ease.

HAMMOND (cont'd)
Some people say that to be a Judge (X)
on these mean streets is bound to (X)
have a certain dehumanizing effect, (X)
and that we should sympathize with (X)
the Judges. I agree. But the Mega- (X)
City Council apparently doesn't. (X)
To them, "dehumanization" isn't just (X)
a buzz word - it's a byword. And (X)
I'll show just how terrifyingly far (X)
they've taken that thought... (X)
tomorrow night. (X)

DREDD
(turning, to Griffin)
A rookie Judge died there, too.
I guess he wasn't worth mentioning.

GRIFFIN
(wryly)
No, that might confuse the viewers.
We can't be victims, Dredd... we're
the villains!
(anguished)
Don't they understand we need law
and order? Housing can wait...
safe streets can't!

DREDD
Things will get better, sir.

GRIFFIN
(leaving)
I pray you're right, Dredd.

7 WITH DREDD

5

As Griffin leaves, Dredd turns. As he passes the Council Chamber, Fargo beckons to him. Startled, Dredd joins him. (X) (X)

DREDD
Chief Justice? (X) (X)

FARGO
Four Summary Executions, Dredd. Were they necessary? (X) (X) (X)

DREDD
They were unavoidable, sir. Out there... that's the reality. (X) (X) (X)

FARGO
We make our own reality, Dredd. Maybe it's time for a new one. Although I doubt Judge Griffin would recognize a new reality if he arrested it himself. (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X)

DREDD
With all due respect, sir, how can you say that when you spend most of your time -

Dredd breaks off; he's said too much. But Fargo won't let him off the hook.

FARGO
Most of my time <u>where</u>?

DREDD
At the Academy... Sir.

FARGO
Don't you mean at the Academy wiping Cadet's Asses? That <u>is</u> what they say in the squad room, isn't it?

DREDD
It... doesn't matter what they say, Sir. You're the Chief Justice of Mega City. If it weren't for you and the others like you, we wouldn't <u>have</u> our justice system. There isn't a Judge in Mega-City who doesn't want to follow in your footsteps.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: 57

FARGO
I'm glad you feel that way, Dredd. Because starting tomorrow you're going to spend one day a week at the Academy... teaching.

Dredd takes this in his stride.

DREDD
I'd be honored. Unarmed combat, or marksmanship?

FARGO
(exiting, with a grin)
Ethics.

And as Dredd reacts, we

CUT TO:

58 EXT. ASPEN PENAL COLONY - DAY 58

An ominous mountain fortress. GUARD TOWERS on every corner. WIND rattles the concertina wire on the walls. If the Cursed Earth is hell, this is hell's prison.

INT. ASPEN PENAL COLONY - WARDENS OFFICE - DAY 59

Stark, spare on creature comforts. WARDEN JUDGE MILLER paces. From time to time he looks at a small PACKAGE on his desk.

60 PACKAGE - CLOSE 60

A small SEALED BOX with a THUMBCODE LOCK.

61 BACK TO SCENE 61

Miller looks at it, frustrated. Finally makes his decision. He picks it up, leaves the room.

CUT TO:

62 INT. MAXIMUM SECURITY WING 62

Miller and two GUARDS stride through the old part of the complex. Everything gets progressively dirtier and dilapidated as they go. Finally, they reach a MASSIVE STEEL DOOR with a computer access screen. Miller puts his thumb in the lock.

MILLER
Miller. Warden.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: 6

COMPUTER VOICE
Voice sample and thumbscan recognized.

The DOOR OPENS. Miller turns to the guards.

MILLER(cont'd)
Wait here.

CUT TO:

63 INT. RICO'S CELL - DAY 63

Miller steps inside. AUTOGUNS swivel toward him. "Read" his BADGE. BEEP. The autoguns swing away. The door CLOSES.

RICO'S VOICE
Hello, Warden.

64 REVERSE ANGLE 64

We're in a large circular room. In the center is an isolated PLATFORM. A curtain of BLUE LIGHT surrounds it. Behind this, a FIGURE draws a bead of sweat from his forehead...

absently flicks it at the energy curtain. It SIZZLES. The figure moves CLOSER. This is RICO.

RICO(cont'd)
Have you come for another...chat?

MILLER
A short one, I'm afraid. Duty calls.

RICO
(laughs)
We're both prisoners here. You behind a desk... me behind... this. Fargo's reward for our services.

MILLER
When you killed innocent people you went far beyond service.

Rico stands. Moves toward the energy curtain. Glares at Miller.

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED: 64

RICO
"Innocent"? A meaningless word. The innocent exist only until they inevitably become perpetrators themselves. In the end, "Guilt" and "Innocence" are merely a matter of timing.

MILLER
You're insane.

RICO
Am I? When did you become a perpetrator? Was it the time you found money mysteriously transferred into your account? Or the time I was sentenced to death? You've been taking bribes for years, Warden. You're a criminal. And a stupid one: You don't even know who's paying you.

MILLER
I don't want to know.

RICO
If ignorance is bliss, Warden, then you must be very blissful. (X)
(weary)
Miller, why are you here?

MILLER
Your mysterious benefactor has sent you a package.

Miller speaks into a console before Rico's laser-guarded "cell."

MILLER (cont'd)
Deactivate Shield.

The ENERGY CURTAIN drops. The autoguns on the wall swivel toward Rico. Miller moves onto the platform, hands over the package. Rico places his thumb on the lock and it OPENS.

65 THE PACKAGE 65

Rico's JUDGE'S BADGE rests inside. Along with a PHOTOGRAPH... of Hammond, the newscaster. And... what appears to be a "Rubic's Cube" type TUBULAR PUZZLE.

6 BACK TO SCENE 6

Rico begins to manipulate the puzzle.

MILLER
(curious)
What is that?

RICO
The Ancient Puzzle, Miller: The One about the Meaning of Life.

MILLER
(sarcastic)
Really. And what is the meaning of Life?

RICO
It's over.

And he AIMS the "puzzle". BLAM!

67 MILLER 67

The SHOT from the tiny weapon hits him in the throat. Gasping, he falls onto his knees. With one hand on his throat, he staggers to the door while Rico descends from his platform.

MILLER
(coughing)
Computer....ac-active s-shield!

COMPUTER VOICE
Voice not recognized. Security Breach. Autoguns targeting.

Miller panics. Scrambles for the door.

MILLER
NO!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! He's cut down ten feet from the door.

68 OUTSIDE THE DOOR - THE TWO GUARDS 68

Jack shells into their riot guns. Charge inside -

69 BACK IN THE CELL 69

The guards only see Miller's body. Then Rico swings down from his hiding place - the turret of an autogun! He KICKS out with both feet - drives both Guards into the Energy Curtain. ZAP! They're instantly FRIED.

0 WIDER 70

Rico dismounts like an acrobat, holds his badge up towards the autogun scanner. BEEP. The autoguns pivots away. The DOOR OPENS. Rico snatches up a weapon - steps outside -

CUT TO:

71 INT. ACADEMY - INDOOR TRAINING RANGE - TIGHT ON DREDD 71

DREDD
Kevlar nine helmet and body armor.

WIDEN. Dredd is LECTURING to a group of CADETS who hang on his every word. We're in a TRAINING AREA like the one "Q" ran in the Bond movies.

Dredd turns. A TECH nods: Target ready. Dredd FIRES a barrage of bullets at a mannequin in Judge's gear. The bullets ricochet off. The class OOOHS and AHHS.

DREDD(cont'd)
Yours, when you graduate.
(pause)
If you graduate.

72 NEW ANGLE 72

Dredd moves to another training station. Another tech nods: Ready.

DREDD(cont'd)
(holding it up)
Lawgiver Two. Twenty five round sidearm with mission-variable voice programmed ammunition.
(into gun)
Signal Flare. (X)

He turns, FIRES. The FLARE explodes on the wall. Again -OOOHS and AHHS. (X)

DREDD(cont'd)
Yours, when you graduate.

73 HERSHEY - AT SUPPLY ROOM - SAME TIME 73

She is exchanging her battered helmet. Now, she notices Dredd, lingers to watch, impressed with his style.

74 RESUME DREDD'S CLASS 74

Now he moves to several Techs who are hurriedly tweaking the most awesome LAWMASTER CYCLE we've seen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 7

DREDD(cont'd)
Mark IV Lawmaster, improved model. With on-board cannon, vertical take off and landing, flight capacity and 500 kilometer range.

The head Tech gives thumbs up while the other techs step back. The class waits, expectant. The lead tech throws a REMOTE. SPARKS fly. The motor COUGHS, dies. The class GROANS. Dredd glares at the embarrassed technicians.

DREDD(cont'd)
Yours... if they ever get it to work.

LAUGHTER. Dredd moves to a lectern. Faces the class.

DREDD(cont'd)
All of these things are nothing but toys. Bottom line, final word, end of the day, when you're alone in the dark... all that counts... is this. (X) (X)

He takes something from the lectern shelf, throws it down. It's the all-but holy book: THE LAW.

DREDD(cont'd)
And you <u>will</u> be alone. Because when you swear to uphold these ideals, you are sacrificing whatever chance you have for a Life. (X) (X) (X)

75 FAVORING CADETS 75

They frown; this is not what they expected to hear from a living legend. They become increasingly unnerved.

76 HERSHEY 76

The talk upsets her, too, perhaps more than the others.

DREDD'S VOICE(cont'd)
For most of us there is only lonely death on the streets... or, for those few of us who survive to old age... the prouder loneliness of the Long Walk. (X)

77 RESUME DREDD 77

DREDD
(holding up the book)
Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. Old and noble ideas. But they are what we give to others... not what we will ever receive for ourselves. Class dismissed.

The class breaks up on a definite low note.

CUT TO:

78 INT. ACADEMY LOCKER ROOM - DAY 78

Hershey is drying her hair with a towel. OLMEYER, a short, earnest underclassman, approaches her. He's carrying a large BOOK.

OLMEYER
Judge Hershey, the yearbook deadline is only a week away. Have you changed your mind?

HERSHEY
Forget it, Olmeyer. I'm not gonna be the yearbook Centerfold!

OLMEYER
It's not a centerfold, it's a calendar! And it won't be a tacky 3-D hologram. The yearbook is all classic print and 2-D. Here, let me show you a dummy -

He starts to open the book. She slams it closed on his fingers.

HERSHEY
No, let me show you a dummy.

She turns his head so he can SEE his reflection. When he turns back - she's gone.

78A WITH HERSHEY 78A

She sees Dredd at an end locker. Decides. Approaches him.

HERSHEY
Judge Dredd?

He looks at her, waiting.

(CONTINUED)

3A CONTINUED:

HERSHEY(cont'd)
I caught your lecture today. Do... do you really think that's what the cadets need to hear?

DREDD
Yes. The least I can do is tell them the truth.

HERSHEY
Well, I think your truth is relative. I have a personal life. I have lots of friends.

DREDD
Really. How long since you saw any of them?

HERSHEY
(defensive)
Well, my shifts have been changed a lot lately. Two, three months, tops.

DREDD
You've only been on the street a year. You're still in denial.

HERSHEY
It's not that bad.

DREDD
How many married Judges do you know?

HERSHEY
Uh, well, my class is young. None of them have found the right... person.

He just looks at her.

HERSHEY(cont'd)
Has it really been like that for you? Haven't you ever been in -
(checking herself)
Haven't you ever had a... friend?

DREDD
Yes. Once.

HERSHEY
What happened?

(CONTINUED)

78A CONTINUED: (2) 78A

Dredd takes off his helmet. It's the first time we've seen his face, and it's filled with barely controlled emotion.

DREDD
I judged him. (X)

CUT TO:

79 EXT. MEGA-CITY LOCK - NIGHT 79

Another Aspen Shuttle is docked here, steam curling up from the motors. (X) (X)

80 EXT. DOCKED SHUTTLE - CLOSER - NIGHT 80

A GROUND CREW member couples fat conduits to the underbelly of the docked aircraft. Suddenly an ARM wraps around his throat. He struggles and we see his captor, hanging upside down in the landing gear: Rico. He drops to the ground like an acrobat, holding his victim all the way down. The man's neck SNAPS on impact. Rico drags the body into the shadows. (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X)

81 EXT. MEGA CITY - NIGHT 81

Not a nice part of town. The FACES we SEE and the SOUNDS we HEAR are unnerving. This is not the shiny part of the future. We HOLD on the scene, finally WIDEN to find Rico. Wearing the clothes of the ground crewman he killed, he walks past rows of MEN enraptured in violent/erotic VIDEO GAMES. He's searching for something. And then he sees it: (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X)

82 UP ANGLE 82

A shop with a busy ever-changing SIGN: GEIGER'S BAZAAR. SURPLUS - PAWN - FAX BOXES - VOUCHERS CASHED. He heads inside.

83 INT. GEIGER'S - NIGHT 83

A large squalid pawnshop. Surplus and junk hangs from the cluttered walls. The rear is divided by a ceiling-high locked fence that secures the better grade merchandise. GEIGER, 50's, scowls as Rico enters. Puffs on a cigar.

GEIGER
We've closed for the night.

RICO
You're holding a package for me.
I'm... Rick.

GEIGER
Oh, yeah... Gimme a second.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: 8

While Geiger gets it, Rico quickly scans the store. A simple security camera in the corner. A jumble of crates and large antique weapons... including a few things that look like rusting metal warriors. Rico points to these.

RICO
I thought they destroyed all the ABC Warbots?

GEIGER
(coming back)
You can collect 'em if you make 'em non-functional. Like my wife.
(hands him box)
Here you go.

Geiger pretends not to watch as Rico unlocks the box. Geiger sneaks a look... sees a uniform... and a Judge's Lawgiver. Rico starts to reach inside. Geiger stops him. (X)

GEIGER
Whoa, friend, whoever sent you this is no friend at all.

RICO
Oh? And why's that?

GEIGER
That's a Lawgiver. It's programmed to only recognize a Judge's hand. You want a weapon, I can get you something nice. But if you touch that it'll take your arm off.

RICO
Really?

Rico grabs it! Geiger flinches - then looks puzzled.

RICO (cont'd)
How do you like that?

He SHOOTS Geiger at point-blank range. Geiger hits the floor.

RICO(cont'd)
I must be a Judge.

Rico bends, takes Geiger's keys and his cigars... then goes to the big cage.

84 ON THE ABC ROBOT 84

A huge, armored combat veteran. We HEAR the metal cage rattle open. Rico approaches, crouches down and pulls a panel off the robot's body.

Inside, the circuit cards have all been pulled from their sockets.

Rico begins whistling... reveille. He pushes the boards back in, hits the RESET button.

85 WIDER 85

The ROBOT starts to WHIR. A GUSH of steam rises from its powerful torso. The eyes glow RED. It stands to its eight foot height, slowly turning like an arthritic old man.

ROBOT
Status. Commander. Mission.

Rico strikes a match on the robot, lights a cigar.

RICO
Status: Personal bodyguard.
Commander: Rico.
Mission: We're going to war.
(smiles)
Geronimo.

86 thru 88 OMITTED 86 thru 88

89 INT. HAMMOND'S APT. - NIGHT 89

Hammond and his wife LILY are in their modest apartment. The antiques and decorations hint at a warmer era - our own. Both wear nightclothes. Hammond paces, edgy with decision. Lily weaves on a COMPUTERIZED LOOM.

LILY
Vardis, if you're right, then this Judge Dredd isn't really part of the conspiracy.

HAMMOND
No, of course not. It began before he was born. It had to have.

LILY
Then your report tomorrow will destroy an innocent man. Doesn't Dredd's future bother you?

(CONTINUED)

89 CONTINUED: 89

HAMMOND
Yes. But I'm more worried about all of our futures then about Judge...

The door THUDS open. Startled, they turn -

90 REVERSE ANGLE 90

Standing in the doorway is a JUDGE.

HAMMOND (cont'd)
(finishing the thought)
...Dredd...

BLAM BLAM BLAM! The Judge's gun FIRES and we

CUT TO:

91 EXT. MEGA-CITY STREET - DAY 91

Citizens and merchants go about their business. CAMERA CRANES down, finds Dredd on patrol. Something catches his eye. He stops his Lawmaster, gets off. We FOLLOW him towards a slick wet dream of a FUTURE GULL-WINGED CAR... parked in a HANDICAPPED ZONE.

Dredd takes out a BAR CODE READER, scans the license plate. As the gizmo searches its data base, the FUPPIE (Future Yuppie) CAR OWNER runs into view with a Cappuccino in a styrofoam cup. He "beeps" the lock, but Dredd blocks his way to the car door.

DREDD
Is this your car?

CAR OWNER
Hey, come on... what are you gonna do, tow me?

DREDD
Of course not. Towing is the penalty for the first offense. This is your second violation.
(into Lawgiver)
Grenade.

CAR OWNER
HEY!

92 WIDER 92

Dredd aims, FIRES. The car EXPLODES! Dredd walks casually away while the car's owner stands slack-jawed with debris tinkling around him.

93 DREDD 93

The wreck burning behind him, Dredd head back towards his bike... suddenly STOPS. He sees TWO FIGURES in front of him. And, the moment he does, he knows without looking that there are two identical ones behind him.

They're garbed for combat, yet without even the trace of humanity that seeps through a Street Judge's armor. These are the feared JUDGE HUNTERS. All have drawn weapons. The LEADER holds up a HOLO WARRANT with Dredd's PICTURE.

JUDGE HUNTER LEADER
Judge Joseph Dredd. You are under arrest.

CUT TO:

94 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - NIGHT 94

CAMERA finds a broken figure here: Fargo. Ashen, he sits in the Chief Justice's seat, face in his hands.

FARGO
Dredd. I... I can't believe it...
(looking up)
Are you sure? (X)

CAMERA ADJUSTS. We SEE Griffin is standing below him.

GRIFFIN
I'm afraid the evidence is conclusive. The trial will be just a formality.

Fargo descends shakily from his seat. Moves to the window. He takes a pill from his pocket, tries to swallow it without Griffin seeing.

FARGO
Is it possible? Dredd, homicidal too? We went through this nine years ago...

GRIFFIN
We were able to hide the facts then. This time, we may not be so lucky.

FARGO
(turning)
What do you mean?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 9

GRIFFIN
The victim was a reporter. The media is already sniffing around. Eventually... they'll get to the truth.

FARGO
(stricken)
About...Janus? (X)

GRIFFIN (X)
About Janus... and your part in it. (X)

FARGO (X)
How... how long have you known? (X)

GRIFFIN (X)
Does it matter? (X)
(softly) (X)
Nine years ago, when we buried the truth along with the victims, the council ordered the termination of Janus... the complete termination. You obviously defied that order... otherwise this new disaster could never have happened.

FARGO
(a whisper)
If the truth comes out, it could destroy everything we've built... we could go back to the Years of Chaos!

Stricken, he glances over at the great map...remembering.

GRIFFIN
There's a way out, Chief Justice.
(pause)
The Long Walk.

FARGO
Into oblivion? You're suggesting I take it? You must really want to destroy me - !

GRIFFIN
No. I want to save the Judge system. The media won't stop digging into Dredd's case. When they get to the bottom... they'll find you.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (2) 94

GRIFFIN (Cont'd)
But if you take the Long Walk... they'll find nothing but your honored memory.

FARGO
My Walk will give you the Chief Judgeship!

GRIFFIN
It could also save Dredd's life.

CUT TO:

95 INT. JUDGE'S' COMPLEX - CORRIDOR - NIGHT 95

Hershey is being quickly escorted along a corridor by the four Judge Hunters. The place is dark and empty.

JUDGE HUNTER
In here.

The Judge Hunters open a HOLDING CELL. Hershey steps inside.

96 INT. HOLDING CELL - NIGHT 96

Hershey is surprised to see the inhabitant:

HERSHEY
Dredd? What's going on? And who are those feebs? I've never seen those uniforms before - (X)

DREDD
They're Judge Hunters, Hershey. They're the ones who come out when a Judge has broken the Law. (X)

Hershey reacts; she's heard of them. (X)

HERSHEY
Judge Hunters? Then it's a full trial before the Council... that only happens once in a generation... (X)

DREDD
Judge Hershey. I don't have anyone else to ask... Will... will you be my defense attorney? (X)

HERSHEY
You're under indictment? For what? (X)

(CONTINUED)

96 CONTINUED: 96

DREDD (X)
Murder. (X)

CUT TO:

97 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - DAY 97

EXPLOSION of GUNFIRE on the MAIN SCREEN. We WIDEN. We're seeing the tail end of a SURVEILLANCE VIDEO of the murders of Vardis and Lily Hammond, taken by a camera outside their apartment. (X) (X)

JUDGE MCGRUDER'S VOICE
Stop Video.

98 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - WIDER - DAY 98

The place is absolutely packed. Every off-duty Judge in Mega-City is here. So is every Cadet from the Academy, plus the entire media brigade. We note that two oddly reassuring elements from our era are still here: A COURTROOM ARTIST (with a computer sketchpad and lightpen), and a COURTROOM STENOGRAPHER (with his hands stuffed into a FIST STENO KEYBOARD.) Make no mistake about it: this is a real, fair trial. And we're going to see it.

MCGRUDER(cont'd)
Before we go on, I wish to make a personal comment.
(turning)
Judge Dredd. I have observed your career from its outset and I have the highest regard for you. Nevertheless, I must prosecute you to the best of my ability.

99 DREDD - AT THE DEFENDANT'S STATION 99

DREDD
That is the Law, Judge McGruder. I would expect no less.

100 NEW ANGLE - REVEALING THE HIGHEST SEAT 100

In Judge Fargo's place sits Judge Griffin. He is wearing the uniform of the Chief Justice.

GRIFFIN
The Court shares in Judge McGruder's sentiments. In a way I am glad that Judge Fargo is about to begin his Long Walk.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

00 CONTINUED: 100

GRIFFIN (Cont'd)
He will be spared the pain of this trial. Proceed, Judge McGruder.

MCGRUDER
The video you have just seen is prima fascia evidence that the defendant is guilty as charged. Mark this video People's Exhibit "A".

CLERK
So marked.

At the defendant's station, Hershey stands.

HERSHEY
Objection, Your Honor. This video is inadmissible as evidence.

MCGRUDER
Judge Hershey, are you serious? Both of them recognized Judge Dredd!

HERSHEY
That is the State's interpretation. Replay dialogue.

VIDEO rewinds. Then:

LILY'S VOICE (X)
...Doesn't Dredd's future bother (X)
you? (X)

HAMMOND'S VOICE (X)
Yes. But I'm more worried about (X)
all of our futures then about (X)
Judge...Dredd...? (X)

HERSHEY
Stop video. Do you hear it? When
Lily Hammond says "Dredd", it's (X)
part of the conversation. And when
Vardis Hammond says 'Dredd' it (X)
could just as easily be the same.
The suggestion that either has
recognized their murderer is sheer
supposition... or, in the case of
the prosecution, wishful thinking!

BIG REACTION from the packed room. Griffin bangs the gavel for silence.

1 THE DEFENSE TABLE 1C

Hershey returns here to get another document. Dredd WHISPERS.

DREDD
Judge Hershey. I'm really glad I picked you to defend me.

HERSHEY
You only picked me because you didn't have anyone else. (X) (X)

DREDD
I'm still glad. (X)

CAMERA FOLLOWS Hershey forward.

MCGRUDER
(to Hershey)
All right, counselor. Forget the the audio. What about the video? (X)
It clearly shows -

HERSHEY
It clearly shows nothing!
(turning)
Your Honor, I have here an affidavit from Cadet Olmeyer, currently a Junior at the Academy. (

102 OLMEYER - IN THE AUDIENCE 102

The heads of the other cadets around him swivel to look at him with new regard. He does his best to look cool.

103 RESUME TRIAL 103

HERSHEY
Cadet Olmeyer is acknowledged by all his instructors to be an expert in the field of still and video graphics. His affidavit states that this surveillance video is of such low definition that even after all known enhancements are used, no positive identification can be made of the killer. Since the uniform of a Judge could be counterfeit, I repeat my objection to this video being entered as evidence in this case. (X)
(turning to Griffin)
I ask for a ruling.

(CONTINUED)

103 CONTINUED: 103

You could hear a pin drop in the vast room. Everyone watching is sure they know what Griffin will say. They're all wrong.

GRIFFIN
Objection... sustained. The video is inadmissible.

104 ON OLMEYER - IN AUDIENCE 104

OLMEYER (X)
Yessss!

The rest of the courtroom goes nuts. Griffin bangs for order. The BAILIFFS call out.

BAILIFFS
Order, order!

105 HERSHEY 105

returns to the defendant's table as the court quiets down. Olmeyer WHOOPS a second longer than everyone else. (X) Embarrassed, he quiets down, but not before Dredd notices him.

DREDD
That kid barely knows me and he wants to save my ass.

HERSHEY
Trust me. It's not your ass he's interested in.

106 JUDGE MCGRUDER 106

MCGRUDER
Your Honor. I am forced now to enter certain technical evidence of a critical nature regarding (X) the Mega-City Legal system. I (X) will need the Court's permission. (X) I will also need permission to (X) access the Central Computer Bank. (X)

107 HERSHEY AND DREDD 107

They look at each other, as puzzled as everyone else. (X)

(CONTINUED)

107 CONTINUED: 107

MCGRUDER (cont'd) (X)
I can think of no evidence or issue (X)
more critical than the murder trial of (X)
a Judge. You may proceed. (X)

107A BACK TO SCENE 107A

McGruder approaches a special CONSOLE. This is one of many in Mega-City that permit access to "Central" - the Judge System's main computer. Most of the consoles look alike, but this has the largest screen we will see. (X)

MCGRUDER
Central. I wish to access weapons schematics, Judges division. Describe the workings of the standard Judge's sidearm, the Lawgiver Two, and especially its improvements over the earlier Lawgiver One.

Central SPEAKS. Somehow its monotonous, sexless voice hints at an actual personality.

CENTRAL
One moment.

108 108
thru OMITTED thru
109 109
110 NEW ANGLE 110

COMPUTER GRAPHICS illustrating these words APPEARS on screen.

CENTRAL(cont'd)
Nine years ago, the Lawgiver Model Two replaced the Lawgiver Model One. The difference lies in two areas: The computer chip and the ammunition coding. Like the Model one, the computer chip recognizes the thumbcode of all Judges. Judges may use each other's firearms; but a suspect dare not use a Judge's weapon against a Judge.

ANIMATION reminds us of this in non-gory fashion.

CENTRAL(cont'd)
However, the ammunition coding in the Model Two is not cued to the thumbcode recognition chip. Instead, it is coded to the personal DNA of the Judge using the weapon. (X)

111 DREDD & HERSHEY 111

Listening carefully, wondering where this is going.

CENTRAL'S VOICE
This is obtained in a download from my medical files and upgraded automatically every time the weapon is reloaded. Each time a round is chambered and fired, it is tagged with the relevant DNA.

112 NEW ANGLE 112

We slowly TIGHTEN on McGruder and her "witness".

MCGRUDER
Central. Were the bullets recovered from the bodies of Vardis and Lily Hammond so DNA coded? (X)

CENTRAL
Yes, Judge McGruder. It could not be otherwise.

MCGRUDER
And what was the result of the computer check of the DNA coding on those bullets? (X) (X) (X)

You could swear that the computer is going for drama.

CENTRAL
The DNA is a perfect match for Judge Joseph Dredd.

113 COUNCIL CHAMBER - WIDE SHOT 113

Pandemonium. Griffin bangs for order. (X)

114 DEFENSE STATION 114

HERSHEY
(in shock, to Dredd)
DNA evidence is irrefutable! (X) (X)

DREDD
Do your job.

She nods, stands.

HERSHEY
Your Honor... the defense rests.

5 WIDER 17

Griffin looks at McGruder.

MCGRUDER
Your Honor, the Prosecution rests.

GRIFFIN
The Jury may be sequestered.

The Foreman, COUNCIL JUDGE ESPOSITO, stands.

ESPOSITO
Your Honor, sequestering is not necessary. The evidence is irrefutable.
(looks around)
We have reached a Verdict. In the charge of Pre-meditated Murder, we the Jury find Joseph Dredd GUILTY as charged. (X)

GASPS from the audience. It's the fall of a Legend.

116 ON GRIFFIN 116

GRIFFIN(cont'd)
The defendant will stand.

Before Hershey can tell him to, Dredd obeys. Griffin looks him in the eye. Dredd looks back, unblinking.

GRIFFIN(cont'd)
Joseph Dredd, for this crime the Law allows only one punishment: DEATH. (X)

SHOCK rebounds from every wall. As the gasps fade away, Griffin takes out a sealed document.

GRIFFIN(cont'd)
However: I have here the last order of Judge Fargo, written this morning before he prepared for the Long Walk.
(opening it)
He orders that this Court be lenient with Judge Dredd, in gratitude for his years of service.
(setting this down)
It has always been our custom to carry out the last order of a Walking Judge. We will so honor this one.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

116 CONTINUED: 116

GRIFFIN(Cont'd)
(new tone)
The sentence is Life Imprisonment - to be carried out immediately. As it is Written:

Griffin picks up the book of the Law, kisses it. Opens it. And reads.

117 DEFENSE STATION 117

GRIFFIN'S VOICE
"Let the Betrayer of the Law be taken from our Courts;"

Already the Judge Hunters are coming for him.

HERSHEY
Dredd. I... I'm sorry.

DREDD
You did your best, Judge Hershey.

He stands, takes her hand.

DREDD(cont'd)
Thank you.

GRIFFIN'S VOICE
"Let the Freedom he stole from others be stolen from himself;"

The Judge Hunters pull at him. Hershey hangs on as long as she can.

HERSHEY
Dredd..!

118 ON GRIFFIN - RAKED CAMERA 118

GRIFFIN
"Let his armor be taken from him, and all his garb of Justice..."

119 DREDD - SOMEWHERE 119

Wrists manacled, head down. The Judge Hunters pull off his armor, then literally rip away his uniform. He's naked, helpless. Chained. (X)

120 thru 123 OMITTED (X) 120 thru 123

124 EXT. GATES OF MEGA CITY - SUNSET 124

It is the ceremony of The Long Walk. Judge Fargo stands alone, wearing a LONG DUSTER COAT and a wide brimmed HAT. Before him he holds his uniform, Lawgiver, and badge in a ceremonial bundle.

A young FEMALE CADET in an sweet Contralo that contrasts with Griffin's bass READS from a <u>different</u> part of The Law:

FEMALE CADET
(reading)
"Let his name be recorded in every place of Honor. Let him take the Law he served so well to those who have it not."

The great city gate begins to OPEN. Under a fading SUNSET we SEE the forbidden land beyond: THE CURSED EARTH. We TIGHTEN on Fargo, grizzled, weary; the girl, fresh, tearful. Like so many, she reveres this man and what he represents.

FEMALE CADET
"Let him be written in our hearts and our memories."

She hands him the Book. Receives his bundle of worldly belongings in return. A young MALE CADET steps forward, hands Fargo an ancient REMINGTON. (X)

125 DREDD 125

is shoved into a jammed PRISON SHUTTLE. GUARDS fling him in his seat. The shuttle door closes, locks. (X)

GRIFFIN'S VOICE
"Let him be stricken from our hearts and our memories."

126 FARGO 126

FEMALE CADET
"Forever."

A line of CADETS raises Lawgivers overhead. They FIRE a 21 GUN SALUTE. Fargo walks out. The gate CLOSES. (X)

127 EXT. CITY LOCK - DUSK 127

The prison shuttle FIRES its engines. (X)

GRIFFIN'S VOICE
"Forever."

128 EXT. MEGA-CITY ONE - LONG SHOT - DUSK 128

Dredd's shuttle THUNDERS overhead. Far below in the poisoned sand, Fargo looks up at it.

CUT TO:

129 EXT. JUDGE'S COMPLEX - NIGHT 129

Lightning crackles around the Eagle's head. A floating TANKER refuels at a nearby roof top.

130 INT. GRIFFIN'S OFFICE - NIGHT 130

Griffin comes inside. His chair turns around. Rico is sitting in it. Griffin looks at him in shock for a moment. (X) (X)

GRIFFIN
Are you out of your mind, coming here?

Griffin angrily starts forward... stops when the ABC robot moves to block his path.

GRIFFIN(cont'd)
And you brought this, too?

Griffin waves his hand over desk controls. The lights DIM. SHUTTERS block the windows.

RICO
I like to do things my way. (X)

GRIFFIN
Yes, I know. Like framing Dredd for Hammond's murder.

RICO
(smiling)
I thought that was a nice creative touch. Sort of two birds with one stone.

GRIFFIN
Hammond had to be silenced when he found out about Janus! But I could have used Dredd! He practically worshiped the ground I walked on- (X) (X) (X)

(CONTINUED)

130 CONTINUED: 130

RICO
Dredd only worships the Law. And he'd blow you away the minute he found out just how much you're pissing on it. Trust me: It's better this way. Let him see what it's like to freeze his ass off in Aspen. Let him see what it's like to be me! After all...

He moves closer to Griffin, smiles.

RICO(cont'd)
...Dredd and I have so much in common. Why not this?

Griffin looks at him, decides to drop the subject.

GRIFFIN
There's a lot of work to be done.

RICO
Yes. The Janus lab -

GRIFFIN
You'll see it soon enough. In the meantime... I want chaos, Rico. That block war was just the beginning. Now I want fear racing through every street... terror in every quad... panic in every block. Until those miserable rezzies think even their Judges can't save them. That's when the Council will turn to me... and to Janus.

Rico moves towards the door. Pauses.

RICO
Fear, Terror, Panic. I think I can handle that. After all...
(slight smile)
Look how quickly I brought fear in here.

His smile fades and he exits.

131 OMITTED 131

132 EXT. CURSED EARTH - NIGHT 132

A HOWLING WIND blows dust across the dead landscape. The ASPEN PRISON SHUTTLE appears over the horizon.

33 INT. ASPEN SHUTTLE - CONTINUOUS 133

A wide body with the amenities of a galley. Armed JUDGES patrol outside a long CAGE enclosing the rows of prisoners. GUARDS inside the cage are armed with STUN CLUBS. (X)

CAMERA roams the ranks of hardened, brutal prisoners. Gradually we realize that something is being whispered up and down the rows... a slow humm that rises in level to a buzz and then a whisper. Gradually we discern it: "dddrd...dddrdd... Dredd." We reach Dredd the same time the whispers reach him. Manacled like the others, he shows no reaction to the hateful glances aimed in his direction. (X)

PILOT'S VOICE (X)
Attention, crew. We're changing course to avoid some chop. ETA Aspen Prison 11 hundred twenty two. (X)

The craft BANKS, the prisoners chains clanking as they sway. A mean looking PRISONER behind Dredd leans over, hisses: (X)

PRISONER BEHIND HIM (X)
I want a piece of you, scumbag. (X)

DREDD (X)
Okay. (X)

With a SNAP and without looking, Dredd jerks his elbow backwards. The prisoner is knocked unconscious. As he sags in his chains, CAMERA ADJUSTS. The prisoner on the side of Dredd we haven't seen is Fergie. Now, he stares at Dredd. Then he puts his hands over Dredd's face, leaving Dredd's jaw exposed, and parting his fingers at Dredd's eyes, like the visor slit in the Judge's helmet. Fergie's eyes go wide. (X)

FERGIE
Dredd? What are you doing here?

DREDD
I was convicted of a crime.
(pause)
Wrongly convicted.

FERGIE
That makes two of us.

DREDD
No. You got the sentence the Law required. The Proper sentence.

FERGIE
Proper? Five years just for saving my own ass? It was a mistake!

(CONTINUED)

133 CONTINUED: 1

DREDD
The Law does not make mistakes.

FERGIE
Yeah? Then how do you explain what happened to you?

DREDD
(pause)
I... I can't.

FERGIE (X)
(sarcastic) (X)
Oh, you can't. But the "Law doesn't (X)
make mistakes"? So what's this, (X)
then? A bug? A glitch? Typo? (X)
Fumble? Screw-up? Or maybe... (X)
POETIC FUCKING JUSTICE? (X)

VOICE (X)
You're wasting your breath, brother (X)
man... (X)

133A NEW ANGLE 133A

The speaker is a menacing MAN of fifty or so, with gaunt hard ((X)
muscles, the eyes of a mad prophet, and eerie religious TATTOOS. (X)
Three YOUNGER MEN flanking him have similar decorations. This (X)
is REVEREND ANGEL and his SONS. (X)

REVEREND ANGEL(cont'd) (X)
Dredd's a machine. See, any man (X)
- even a Lawman - has a heart. But (X)
not Dredd. He's frozen inside. (X)
That's how he could make this man (X)
(he indicates himself) (X)
and these boys - watch while like (X)
the Grim Reaper himself, he coldly (X)
cut down the youngest fruit of our (X)
tree. (X)

ANGEL SONS (X)
Amen. (X)

DREDD (X)
Angel: Maybe if your youngest fruit (X)
hadn't taken those hostages he could (X)
be here for the family reunion. (X)

As one, all the Angels lunge forward as much as their short (X)
chains will allow. Fergie recoils; Dredd doesn't. But two (X)
GUARDS turn at the commotion. (X

(CONTINUED)

133A CONTINUED:

GUARD
Problem here?

DREDD
No.

FERGIE
Actually,
(pointing)
could I sit over there--

GUARD
(menacing)
SHUT UP!

The guard moves away. The Angel family stares hatred in Dredd's direction.

FERGIE
(sotto, to Dredd)
You'd better not be my roommate.

CUT TO:

134 INT. DREDD'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 134

A narrow window lets in the thinnest sliver of moonlight. Two armchairs, worn leather, from our era. A couple of exotic plants, now wilted. An antique bookcase of burnished wood -a rare material in Mega-City.

Something rattles at the door. The lock GLOWS briefly... something SNAPS. The door opens.

COMPUTER VOICE
Zone A open. Please reset alarm.

Hershey steps in, putting a small tool away in a belt pouch. She closes the door. Takes in the monastic feel of the place. She moves to the bookcase: A small collection of leather-bound books, maybe a dozen in all. Plato, More, Jefferson, Paine. Hershey runs her fingers over the well-worn titles.

135 DREDD'S BEDROOM 135

Narrow bed. A small dresser and chair... no windows.

COMPUTER VOICE
If Alarm is not reset, system will signal armed response in 20 seconds.

Hershey opens a drawer. A few clothes. She slips her hands underneath, feels around, finds nothing. Opens the next drawer.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: 1

Searches. Finds a framed "viewie" on the nightstand. It shows a COUPLE in their 30's with a BABY.

HERSHEY
(off viewie, amused)
Well. Baby Dredd.

136 CLOSER 136

At her touch, the viewie becomes briefly ANIMATED.

137 BACK TO SCENE 137

She's about to put it down - when something about its weight makes her suspicious. She turns it over, examines it - finds a HIDDEN SEAL. The frame OPENS. Inside is a second viewie. It shows Dredd, mid-twenties - and Rico, the same age. Both are grinning: Graduation day at the Academy.

138 CLOSE ON HERSHEY 138

She's puzzled - quite clearly, she has no idea who Rico is.

COMPUTER VOICE
Ten. Nine. Eight...

Hershey folds the frame back up...slips out the door with it.

COMPUTER VOICE
Cancel. Thank you for your cooperation. (X)

CUT TO:

139 OMITTED 139

139A EXT. ASPEN SHUTTLE - IN FLIGHT - NIGHT 139A

139B INT. ASPEN SHUTTLE - COCKPIT - NIGHT 139B

The PILOT speaks into his throat mike. (X)

PILOT (X)
Aspen Prison, this is Prisoner (X)
Shuttle 5A. Request landing Vector. (X)

The VIDSCREEN on the console flutters into life. A harried (X)
ASPEN GUARD appears there. There's NOISE AND CONFUSION in the (X)
b.g. behind him. (X)

ASPEN GUARD (ON SCREEN) (X)
Negative, Shuttle. We have a riot (X)
in progress. Request denied. (X)

(CONTINUED)

9B CONTINUED: 139B

PILOT
Say again, Aspen? (X) (X)

ASPEN GUARD
Repeat, riot in the Maximum Security cellblock. Do not land. (X) (X) (X)

140 INT. SHUTTLE - THE CAGE 140

Fergie is still tormenting Dredd, enjoying his fallen status. He waits until a guard passes, then hisses: (X) (X)

FERGIE
Let's try it again, Dredd. You're in chains. You're going to prison. But you're innocent, and I'm guilty. But it's still not a mistake? (X) (X) (X) (X) (X)

PILOT ON P.A.
ATTENTION, GUARDS. LANDING HAS BEEN CANCELED. REPEAT, LANDING HAS BEEN CANCELED. SECURE PRISONERS FOR NEW FLIGHT PLAN. (X) (X) (X) (X) (X)

And that's when it happens. In that split-second of distraction when the guards look up to listen, Pa Angel begins to reach for a guard's Stun Club! (X) (X) (X)

141 FAVORING DREDD 141

Involuntarily, he lunges forward - (X)

DREDD
Look out - ! (X) (X)

Misunderstanding his intentions, the nearest guard ZAPS him with his Stun Club! At the same moment, Pa Angel gets the other guard's weapon, turns it on him! The guard DROPS. One of the Angel boys grabs the key card! (X) (X) (X) (X)

142 GUARD WITH DREDD 142

turns, charges forward - but two Angels have already whisked the key card over their cuff's scanners! They tackle the guard! (X) (X)

143 SHUTTLE JUDGES - AT CAGE ENDS 143

they rush to open the cage and run inside! (X)

144 IN THE CAGE 144

A PRISONER TRIPS a Judge! The Judge's gun MISFIRES! (X)

145 THE SHUTTLE PILOT - FORWARD 145

the bullet goes through his seat! He slumps! (X)

146 RESUME CAGE 146

The entire aircraft TILTS. The Judges are swarmed by the (X)
prisoners! The card keys are passed around and the overhead (X)
chain RATTLES as it is pulled hand over hand, freeing the (X)
manacled prisoners one by one! And all the while a BUZZ like (X)
the one we heard before grows and grows: (X)

CONVICTS (X)
...llldrrrd...LLLDRDDD... KILL (X)
DREDD! KILL DREDD! (X)

146A DREDD - ON THE FLOOR 146A

punching, twisting, fighting the hands reaching for his throat. (X)
As the aircraft banks steeply, he slides along the floor with (X)
his enemies. SEES a Judge's LAWGIVER trampled under the (X)
scrambling feet. Reaches for it - reaches - reaches - (X)

146B WIDER 146B

Dredd stands, FIRES! Everyone ducks! Dredd grabs Fergie from (X)
the floor, hauls him forward! Dredd smashes his way to the (X)
forward cage door, throws Fergie through it! Pa Angel grabs (X)
Dredd by the throat and wrist - the gun falls outside the cage (X)
-Dredd SMASHES the door on Pa Angel's head, locks it! (X)

DREDD (X)
(to Fergie) (X)
Hack the Shuttle! (X)

FERGIE (X)
W-wha - (X)

DREDD (X)
Hack the shuttle, now! (X)

Fergie pushes the pilot's body aside, hits controls. Meanwhile (X)
the convicts are swarming against the cage door. (X)

147 THE SHUTTLE - LONG SHOT - NIGHT 147

It spirals through the air, out of control.

148 INT. SHUTTLE - NIGHT 148

Dredd jams the cage door shut, struggles forward. (X)

DREDD
What the hell's wrong? (X)

(CONTINUED)

148 CONTINUED: 148

FERGIE
The stabilizers controls! They got hit, too! (X)

CAMERA RAKES to the control panel... and a SMOKING, SIZZLING section. The craft tilts alarmingly. Dredd grabs the stick, helps Fergie try and pull up. It's useless.

149 EXT. CURSED EARTH - NIGHT 149

The shuttle spirals towards the earth.

150 INT. SHUTTLE 150

The ground rushes up - fills the main viewport -

151 EXT. CURSED EARTH - NIGHT 151

The shuttle CRASHES, skids across the ground, smashing through rocks and cacti. Stabilizer fins SNAP off. WINDOWS shatter. The fuselage breaks in two. The rear half with the engines EXPLODES while the forward cabin keeps rolling.

152 NEW ANGLE - NIGHT 152

The forward half of the shuttle comes to rest. There's one last groan of metal from the cabin, and then... silence.

CUT TO:

153 EXT. MEGA-CITY RED LIGHT DISTRICT - FOLLOWING RICO - NIGHT 153

Crowded. Dangerous. In shadowy corners and dark alleys, bodies and souls are being bought and sold. Strange sounds of pain and pleasure assault our ears.

Somehow even these twisted and dangerous people know not to fuck with Rico. They move out of his way almost instinctively.

154 A SCUZZY BIKER TYPE 154

suddenly flies out of a doorway, SMACKS into a pole near Rico. He shakes off the blow, wipes blood from his mouth... howls with animal fury. Charges back towards the doorway.

155 NEW ANGLE 155

His adversary appears, a whirling, lean muscular figure in leather - a woman named ILSA. Now, with four spectacular karate moves, she hits him high, low, middle - and -the <u>coup de grace</u> - right in the balls!

156 CLOSER ON THE BIKER 156

His eyes glaze. He drops like a stone.

ILSA
Pathetic.

She turns to leave... stops when she sees the amused eyes of the man watching her from four feet away: Rico.

RICO
Hello, Professor.

157 CLOSE ON ILSA 157

ILSA(cont'd)
(disbelieving)
R...Rico?

RICO
(off the environment)
I see you're still researching the dark night of the soul.

ILSA
The research ended when they condemned you. I live here, now. You showed me that facing death was the only way to live.

Her eyes glisten as she moves towards Rico, touches his arm.

ILSA(cont'd)
They...they told me you were dead.

Rico reaches out gently...wipes a tear from her cheek.

RICO
Don't go woosy on me, Professor. We got work to do.

He puts his arm around her. They step over her victim on their way out.

CUT TO:

158 EXT. CURSED EARTH - DAWN 158

MOVEMENT inside the smashed aircraft.

158A INT. WRECKED SHUTTLE - DAY 158A

Helmeted JUDGE HUNTERS move through the dim wreck, using BAR CODE READERS to scan the ID tags of the dead. SCANNERS attached to their weapons show readings.

(CONTINUED)

8A CONTINUED: 158A

Another Hunter steps inside through a jagged hole in the fuselage. (X)

SECOND HUNTER
Sir. We found tracks leading away from the wreck. At least half a dozen people. (X) (X) (X)

The HUNTER SQUAD LEADER taps his helmet mike.

HUNTER SQUAD LEADER
This is Capture Team. No sign of Dredd. He appears to have survived the crash. Repeat, he appears to have survived.

CUT TO:

158B INT. GRIFFIN'S OFFICE - MEGA-CITY - INTERCUT - DAY 158B

GRIFFIN
(into intercom)
You are in error, Capture Team. Dredd did not survive the shuttle wreck. No one survived the shuttle wreck. Do I make myself clear? (X)

SQUAD LEADER'S VOICE
Yessir. Quite Clear. (X)

158C INT. WRECKED SHUTTLE - RESUME - DAY 158C

ANOTHER HUNTER
Sir! We found someone.

We follow them forward. Their flashlights converge on one of the WOUNDED GUARDS.

WOUNDED GUARD
Thank God... thank -

His eyes widen as their LASER GUNSIGHTS moves to his chest.

158D EXT. WRECKED SHUTTLE - DAY 158D

GUNFIRE erupts within and we

CUT TO:

159 INT. HERSHEY'S APARTMENT - MORNING 159

Enough personal things to tell us she's both a danger-crazed athlete... and a romantic.

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED:

She's still in sleepware, her uniform for today already laid out. She sips coffee from an Academy mug. Sits down at her apartment's Central Station.

HERSHEY
Central, I need to access the graphics database.

CENTRAL
That could take several days, Judge Hershey. The Graphic Database covers all known graphics, from the Paleoithic Era to today.

Hershey opens the framed viewies she took from Dredd's apartment, slides out the one with the adult Dredd.

HERSHEY
This should be a little faster:
(showing it)
I want you to ID this man.

CENTRAL
Even from here, I can see it's Judge Dredd.

HERSHEY
(exasperated)
The other man!

She slides the viewie into the scanning aperture.

CENTRAL
(all business now)
Scanning for identity, unknown male, approximately 200 Cm. tall, weighing 95 kilos, Skin Tone Three. Ten. Nine. Eight. Seven. Six -

Suddenly the CONSOLE GOES DEAD with a BEEP.

HERSHEY
Central? Central? Hello?

A CANNED VOICE
(not Central)
This terminal has been disconnected from the main system for a system check. You no longer have access to the system. Thank you.

The viewie pops out of the slot with a thunk. Hershey looks at the computer suspiciously.

160 thru 163 OMITTED 160 thru 163

164 INT. JANUS LAB - DAY 164

After all the talk about this place, we probably expected more. Sure, it's big; but half the hi-tech gear is under dusty plastic, and the rest is under repair. Rico sweats over a power module, straining with a wrench.

RICO
Come on, you piece of junk...
(aside to his robot)
No offense.

The bolt loosens. Rico can open the panel.

RICO (cont'd)
Let there be Light.

He flips a switch. The OVERHEAD LIGHTS come on. (Perhaps we notice that the Lab seems to be retro-fitted into an older, metal structure with oddly irregular walls; perhaps not.)

165 LAB - NEW ANGLE 165

A PNEUMATIC DOOR OPENS. Griffin enters. He looks around, pleased.

GRIFFIN
You've made a lot of progress.
Good.

ILSA'S VOICE
Lights! About time -

Griffin's eyes narrow as Ilsa comes in from another area with a clipboard.

RICO
(to Griffin)
Griffin, I think you know Professor Haydyn?

GRIFFIN
(carefully)
Yes. I haven't seen her since your trail. When she testified that you were insane... and therefore... innocent.

She looks at Rico with an expression worthy of a Manson follower.

(CONTINUED)

165 CONTINUED: 165

ILSA
Since then I've learned innocence is just another lie. And that the best truths come only with pain.
(back to reality)
And... speaking of painful truths... Here's our shopping list. (X)

She hands Griffin the digital notepad. (X)

GRIFFIN (X)
(reading) (X)
Inducers, nitrogen coils, nano- (X)
pumps... I can pull all this from (X)
Mega-City hospital. They won't even (X)
know it's gone. When can you be on-line?

RICO
Tomorrow. But it won't mean a thing if you can't get into Central's Janus files. They're still security locked.

GRIFFIN
Leave that to me. Meanwhile you have work to do... on the streets.

RICO
"Fear, Terror, Panic." Yes. My favorite emotions.

ILSA
Mine too.

Rico turns, whistles at the robot like it's a dog.

RICO
C'mon, Fido. Walkies.

The robot follows Rico and Ilsa out the door. Griffin watches them go, slightly unnerved. (X)

CUT TO:

165A EXT. CURSED EARTH - DAY 165A

The SUN sizzles into the LENS - (X)

65B EXT. RUINED COURTHOUSE - DAY 165B

Fergie and Dredd are hanging by their handcuffs from a pole which in turn has been set on the crossbeams of this ruined building. Fergie is unconscious. Dredd, awakened by the crawl of a SUNBEAM over his face, stirs, looks around. (X)

165C TWO OF THE ANGELS - NEARBY - HIS POV 165C

They're going through gear and equipment scavenged from the shuttle wreck. We have a sense of the other Angels just O.S., where we HEAR VOICES and sounds of PAIN. But these two here attract our interest... especially now, when their fumbling with the BLACK BOX RECORDER from the shuttle CLICKS IT ON. (X)

SHUTTLE RECORDING
(full of STATIC)
-- is Aspen Prison. Repeat do not land... riot in...gress... Warden dead... special prisoner...

PILOT'S VOICE
Special prisoner? Say again, Aspen. You're breaking up...

ASPEN VOICE
...didn't even know he was here. Records showed execution... Rico, Samuel Rico... killed Warden... sabotaged security system...

STATIC and GUNSHOTS end the tape. (X)

165D DREDD 165D

CAMERA PUSHES IN on him. (X)

DREDD
(sotto, to himself)
Rico? That's impossible...

O.S. SCREAM. Fergie wakes with a start, REACTS to the dramatic shafts of sunlight raking the cathedral ceiling. (X)

FERGIE
Ohmigod, I'm dead. I'm dead!
(seeing Dredd)
And in hell.

165E NEW ANGLE 165E

Reverend Angel and his sons come forward, throw down the BODY of the Shuttle Guard they have just killed. (X)

(CONTINUED)

55E CONTINUED: 165E

REVEREND ANGEL (X)
Awake. Good. (X)
(off the body) (X)
We're running out of sinners. (X)

DREDD (X)
You have just committed murder. (X)
The penalty is death. (X)

Reverend Angel HITS Dredd. (X)

REVEREND ANGEL (X)
Silence, blasphemer! You still put (X)
your faith in a false Law, instead (X)
of the one True Law! (X)

FERGIE (X)
(hopeful) (X)
Hallejuah, brother! (X)

Dredd looks at Fergie suspiciously... Pa Angel looks at him with odd interest. (X) (X)

REVEREND ANGEL (X)
Can it be? Can it be, that from (X)
the City of the Fallen, there is (X)
one of the Faithful? (X)

FERGIE (X)
Amen, brother! Say it! (X)

DREDD (X)
Ah... Fergie... (X)

REVEREND ANGEL (X)
Boys, I believe we have a Believer (X)
in the gallery. Cut him down! (X)

FERGIE (X)
Go tell it on the Mountain! (X)

165F FAVORING FERGIE 165F

He smiles as the Angels start to release him. (X)

FERGIE (X)
Well, Dredd. The Law doesn't make (X)
mistakes, but I'm in like a disk, (X)
and you're toast. (X)

DREDD (X)
Actually, you're toast: I arrested (X)
the Angels for Cannibalism. (X)

(CONTINUED)

65F CONTINUED: 165F

As Fergie's expression changes, they CUT HIM DOWN. CAMERA RAKES (X)
to the Angel's campfire - and human parts roasting over it! (X)

REVEREND ANGEL (X)
Prepare the Supplicant for (X)
Sacrifice! (X)

FERGIE (X)
I'm not succulent! I'm not (X)
succulent, look, I'm skin and - (X)

CRACK! Dredd has swung his legs up, wrapped them around the (X)
pole, and SNAPPED it! He and the pole fall on top of Fergie (X)
and the leadmost Angels! (X)

165G FERGIE 165G

Falls, dodging feet - (X)

165H WIDER 165H

the Angels still standing ignore Fergie, rush Dredd! Dredd (X)
doesn't wait for them to reach him - he charges! He feints to (X)
Pa Angel, takes out one of the boys! Two other Angels get in (X)
blows - but then Dredd snatches up Fergie's half of the pole, (X)
uses it like a Kendo Master! He knocks two Angels unconscious, (X)
then a third - then - WHAM! He gets knocked down himself by (X)

165I REVEREND ANGEL 165I

who raises the metal shaft he has used over his head - turns (X)
it point downwards like a spear - and then - BLAM! He's SHOT. (X)

165J NEW ANGLE 165J

Fergie, beside the dazed Dredd, looks up. A JUDGE HUNTER is (X)
a short distance away, SUNLIGHT gleaming off his badge. (X)
Relieved, Fergie jumps to his feet. (X)

FERGIE (X)
I surrender! I surrender! (X)

THIRD JUDGE HUNTER (X)
You can't. (X)

He aims at Fergie! (X)

165K DREDD - ON THE GROUND 165K

seeing this, he jumps up. (X)

DREDD (X)
No! (X)

(CONTINUED)

165K CONTINUED: 165

Another Hunter appears behind Dredd! Dredd whirls, grabs at the man's gun barrel. BLAM BLAM! The shots go SKYWARD!

165L JUDGE HUNTER #3 - BELOW 165L

ignoring the unarmed Fergie, he spins, FIRES - !

165M DREDD 165M

pulls the guy he's struggling with in front of him! The BULLETS hit him! Dredd wrenches the weapon from the man's dying fingers - SHOOTS the Hunter beside Fergie!

165N FERGIE 165N

reacts as the Hunter falls beside him, the SCANNER landing right in front of his face.

Dredd grabs Fergie's elbow to pull him up - but Fergie resists - points to the SCANNER -

165O SQUAD LEADER AND COMPANION - ELSEWHERE IN RUINS 165O

Hearing the SHOTS, they race in that direction.

165P INT. COURTHOUSE - DAY 165

The last two Judge Hunters run towards the continuing SHOTS and SFX of a STRUGGLE. They climb a rubble wall, aim down at the SOUNDS - stop, confused.

165Q DOWN ANGLE - THEIR POV 165Q

One of their own fallen men - and his SCANNER, its back panel off and wires hanging out. The scanner is replaying a video/audio LOOP of the previous struggle with Dredd! That's the "gunshots"!

165R BACK TO SCENE 165R

Too late, they realize they've been had. Dredd swings in on a beam, KICKS one Hunter into a wall! We HEAR the man's neck crack! Dredd struggles hand-to-hand with the second one. They FALL to the Courtroom floor!

Fergie appears with a piece of timber, tries to hit the Judge Hunter with it.

The gun Dredd and the Hunter are both struggling for GOES OFF. The piece of WOOD EXPLODES in Fergie's hands! Dredd forces the gun barrel towards the Hunter - BLAM!

He's dead. Sudden SILENCE.

(CONTINUED)

R CONTINUED: 165R

FERGIE
We did it! We got them all!

A SHAPE lunges up, close to CAMERA. It's one of the Hunters Dredd took out earlier, still alive enough to aim his weapon! Dredd aims his stolen one - CLICK! Empty! The Hunter squeezes his trigger - BLAM! The Hunter himself is hit! Shocked, the Hunter turns - gets off one last SHOT -

165S REVERSE ANGLE 165S

A FIGURE silhouetted in the Courtroom door FIRES at the same moment. The last Hunter falls, dead. Dredd looks at the new arrival... his hat... his long duster coat...

DREDD
Fargo?

BLOOD wells on Fargo's coat. He's been hit. As he sags, Dredd and Fergie rush towards him.

CUT TO:

166 INT. ACADEMY DORM - STUDENT DATA PODS - DAY 166

Through the window blinds we can see the distant Hall of Justice. We're in the Multi-media study cubicles used by the undergraduates. Olmeyer is at a graphics work station with rougns of his yearbook tacked all over the walls. The workstation PURRS while Hershey glares at him. (X)

HERSHEY
The Dance? You want me to go to (X)
the Goddamn Junior Dance? (X)

OLMEYER (X)
I've given up on the centerfold.
I'll settle for a date. (X)

HERSHEY
We're trying to save Judge Dredd, and you're using the situation to blackmail me. That's disgraceful!

OLMEYER (X)
I know. But I'll never get another
chance like this. (X)
(pointing)
It's almost through processing the viewie. Do we have a deal?

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: 16

HERSHEY
(through her teeth)
Yes!

OLMEYER (X)
Low cut dress?

HERSHEY
Yes! Just do it!

OLMEYER (X)
(cocky)
Graphics Analysis coming up... now.

He hits a control dramatically. The screen comes up... shows the PICTURE OF BABY DREDD AND PARENTS. Hershey stares at it in disbelief.

HERSHEY
Olmeyer, you stupid futz! You (X)
analyzed the wrong picture!

OLMEYER (X)
I did?

She gropes around on the desk, finds the viewie frame with the shot of Dredd and Rico.

HERSHEY
You were supposed to do this one!
You just wasted three hours!

The computer BEEPS. MESSAGES run by the bottom of the screen.

OLMEYER (X)
If this is the wrong picture, why
is it full of anomalies?

HERSHEY
What?

OLMEYER (X)
Slick ones, too... somebody must
have used a CGI terminal and a scan
quadrupler to make this.

He looks at the image, uses the mouse.

HERSHEY
You mean... it's not real?

OLMEYER (X)
Take a look. I'll drop out all the
artificial pixels.

67 NEW ANGLE 167

Hershey's eyes widen in shock as, one by one, the PICTURE ELEMENTS DISAPPEAR, scan line by scan line.

OLMEYER(cont'd) (X)
Sky. Foreground. House.
Parents... they're all fake.
(turning)
The only thing that's real is the baby.

She's in shock. Maybe we are, too. (X)

168 thru 184 OMITTED 168 thru 184

185 INT. CURSED EARTH COURTHOUSE - DUSK 185

Fargo lies near the judge's bench. Dredd has dressed his wound and made him as comfortable as possible. Fergie is heating rations from the Judge Hunter's cruiser over a fire. He brings soup over to Fargo. Fargo tries to swallow... can't. (X)

FARGO
Bury me there, under the blind lady.

Dredd doesn't understand. Fargo raises his arm, points to the statue of Justice weighing her scales.

FARGO(cont'd)
Judge or citizen - everyone got a fair shake. She treated them all the same.
(weakly pointing)
The jury sat there. Ordinary people. Worst thing we did was take justice out of their hands.

DREDD
No. You and the first Judges... you saved Mega-City.

FARGO
Yes. And almost lost our souls.
(on Dredd's look)
It seemed like a wise idea: Create the perfect Judge. Breed courage - wisdom - integrity. The Janus Project. We used the old Council for the base material. Five DNA samples were taken, two were chosen. One was mine.
(pause)
You were the result.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

Dredd is stunned --

DREDD
But... but the orphanage told me my parents were killed by lawbreakers -- they gave me that picture of them -

FARGO
A fake. The psychs on the Janus project came up with that story. It was supposed to motivate you into law enforcement. It worked. Both times.

DREDD
What do you mean, both times?

FARGO
(fading)
There were... two infants created in the Janus lab. They were supposed to be perfect. One was: You. The other... somehow, it was... mutated. Not anything you could see...
(indicating his head)
But up here... horrible. A genetic criminal that one day just went... haywire.
(coughs)
Guess we weren't the sterling specimens we thought.

DREDD
I have a... brother?

FARGO
More than a brother.
(pause)
You knew him at the Academy, Dredd. You Judged him. The Council Tried him.

DREDD
(stunned)
Rico?

FARGO
He had to be put down. But I wouldn't let them do that to you. Griffin blackmailed me into the Walk, Dredd. Don't trust him.

(CONTINUED)

185 CONTINUED: (2) 185

DREDD
Like I trusted you?

FARGO
I'm sorry... son.

The breath goes out of Fargo's body. He dies. Dredd stares at him, his world torn apart.

DISSOLVE TO:

186 EXT. CURSED EARTH - SUNSET 186

Dredd stands in the fading light, withdrawn within himself. Fergie approaches, carrying the Remington.

FERGIE
I buried him. Except for this.

Dredd silently follows Fergie to the grave. Fergie shoves the Remington into the mound of earth as a marker.

FERGIE(cont'd)
You wanna... say something?

He hands The Book to Dredd. After a moment, Dredd opens it.

DREDD
(reading)
."What is the end of a Just Man?
The Long Walk and then nothing?
No; for Whoever Walks with the Law
walks forever, and whoever honors
the Law will trod in his path..."

Dredd looks at the fresco on the wall. Sees the faded words: "LET JUSTICE BE DONE THOUGH THE WORLD PERISH."

DREDD
(suddenly)
Find food and ammunition. Load up that sand cruiser.

FERGIE
Where are going?

Dredd yanks the Remington out of Fargo's grave. We track into Dredd's face until it fills frame.

DREDD
To find Rico.

CUT TO:

187
1
,0
0A OMITTED 187 thr 19 190A

MEGA-CITY STREET - NIGHT

A squad of Judges on Lawmasters ride into SHOT.

DISPATCHER'S VOICE (X)
(futzed) (X)
Reported unrest code D-924 downtown (X)
sector 12 back-up requested. (X)

The Judges stop and dismount outside a pleasure arcade. They (X)
enter, careful, professional. Pause. BOOM!!! The arcade (X)
EXPLODES, throwing glass, flame, and JUDGE'S BODIES into the (X)
street. (X)

CUT TO:

191 A WOMAN - NIGHT 191

runs down a Mega-City alley. She flags down two JUDGES on Lawmasters. Clutches at her torn clothing, pointing.

WOMAN
Two of them! They tried to... it
was horrible!

The Judges dismount, head that way. GUNSHOTS. SCREAMS. (
Horrible tearing SOUNDS. (

Pause. The ABC robot comes around the corner, hands stained, (X)
bullet dings in its armor. The woman turns. It's Ilsa. As (X)
she beckons the lumbering machine, we (X)

CUT TO:

192
thru OMITTED 192 thru 193
193
193A INT. JUDGE'S LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT 193A

Frenzied activity as several shifts double up.

JUDGE SERGEANT
(shouting assignments)
Halloway, Kampali! First Emergency
Shift! Mifune, Lopez, Second
Emergency Shift! All of you, stay
alert! Whoever's been taking out
Judges knows our standard
procedures!

We move slowly from the showers with a Judge who moves to her (X)
locker. She's surprised to find it unlocked. Puzzled, she (X)
opens it - we SEE the odd PACKAGE too late - EXPLOSION. (X

3C EXT. HALL OF JUSTICE - NIGHT 193C

The EXPLOSION blossoms against the flank of the great metal eagle. As ALARMS RING we RAKE to RICO, amused. He lights a cigar, tosses the match towards the distant flames. (X) (X)

CUT TO:

194 EXT. MEGA - CITY WALLS - BINOCULAR MATTE - NIGHT 194

FERGIE'S VOICE
There's no way in, Dredd!

195 REVERSE ANGLE - EDGE OF CURSED EARTH - NIGHT 195

Dredd and Fergie are standing beside the Hunter's sand cruiser. Their faces are dry and their lips parched and they show the wear from this journey. Dredd has a pack of gear on his back -and Fargo's Winchester. Ignoring Fergie, he continues to peer at the Mega-City wall. (X) (X)

FERGIE(cont'd) (X)
Hey, did you hear me? They don't (X)
have a welcome mat! (X)

DREDD (X)
(lowering binoculars) (X)
There's a way in: Six years ago
two Cursed Earthers figured it out.

196 OVER THEIR SHOULDERS 196

Dredd points: Sure enough, there's a puff of FLAME at a VENT low on the wall. SMOKE rises into the sky. Then it stops.

DREDD(cont'd)
The vent from the city incinerator.
There's a burst twice a minute.
That means that there's 30 seconds
for someone to run through the tube
before it flames again.

FERGIE
And these Cursed Earthers, they made
it through?

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

DREDD
Actually, they were burned to a crisp. But the theory's sound. Let's go. (X)

FOOM. Another FIREBALL belches from the city wall. As Fergie stares at it, Dredd starts forward. It's a few paces before he notices Fergie hasn't moved. (X) (X) (X)

DREDD(cont'd)
What's wrong? (X) (X)

FERGIE
What's wrong? Are you kidding? Did that helmet you wore all those years compress your brain? You're gonna get me killed! (X) (X) (X) (X) (X)

DREDD
Fergie. There's a maniac loose in the city - (X) (X) (X)

FERGIE
There's one loose out here, too! Big choice, I got! Dying of thirst or from a fireball up my ass! This is all your fault! (X) (X) (X) ((.

DREDD
My fault? (X) (X)

FERGIE
Yes! If you hadn't arrested me, I wouldn't be here in the first place! (X) (X) (X) (X)

Fergie sits down petulantly. (X)

FERGIE(cont'd)
I'm through schlepping. I'm gonna sit here until I die... or until you apologize. (X) (X) (X) (X)

DREDD
The Law doesn't apologize. (X) (X)

FERGIE
You're not a Judge anymore. (X) (X)

DREDD
I was when I sentenced you. (X) (X)

(CONTINUED)

196 CONTINUED: (2) 196

FERGIE
Don't get technical. Just say: "I'm sorry I misjudged you. And I'll never arrest you again."

Dredd turns around. Marches back to Fergie. Pause. Dredd whips a gun up, points it at Fergie. COCKS it.

FERGIE
(after a moment)
Apology accepted.

Dredd turns... walks. Fergie looks at another FIREBALL emerging from the city wall... then at the trackless wasteland he's just crossed. Pause. With a groan, he races to catch up with Dredd.

197 EXT. MEGA-CITY STREET - NIGHT CUT TO: 197

SIRENS wail. FIRE burns around the corner. Several LAWMASTERS cruise past. Looters run away from them. Close to CAMERA, Hershey throws two PERPETRATORS against a fence, cuffs them there.

HERSHEY
(into radio)
Dispatch, I'm in Green Quad, 4-11. Need pickup.

DISPATCH VOICE
We copy, Hershey. We'll bag 'em. Meanwhile I have Central on line for you. Can you take it?

She takes a few steps away from her perps for privacy.

HERSHEY
Yes, patch me in!

CENTRAL'S VOICE
Judge Hershey, you paged me. How can I assist you?

HERSHEY
You can start by telling me why Dredd's baby picture is a state secret.

Pause. We can almost hear Central thinking. Meanwhile, behind Hershey, a figure in a Judge's uniform approaches her Bike... drops something into a storage compartment on it. Even from this distance we notice a red arming light on the object.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: 19

The figure moves away.

HERSHEY(cont'd) (X)
Central. I want an answer. (X)

CENTRAL (X)
I'm sorry, I can neither confirm (X)
nor deny your statement. (X)

HERSHEY
(disconnecting)
Get a virus!

Annoyed, she turns, heads back for her bike - and that's when it EXPLODES!

CUT TO:

198 INT. INCINERATOR CHUTE - NIGHT 198

A FIREBALL ROLLS TOWARD THE CAMERA. We PAN it. As it disappears into the sky, Dredd and Fergie dive inside.

DREDD
Run!

Crouched over, they race up the slight slope.

FERGIE
(as he runs)
Thirty... twenty nine... twenty eight... twenty seven... twenty six... twenty five...

199 ANGLE BEHIND THEM 199

Fergie's already beginning to drop back. The only guide in the dark is the slight reflection from CONDUIT on the chute floor.

DREDD
Stop counting!

FERGIE
(softer)
--nineteen... eighteen... seventeen... sixteen...

200 DREDD 200

FAINT light starts to fall on him. Then he SEES it, up ahead -the lights of Mega-City! Dredd pushes on - reaches the opening! Turns to look at...

1 FERGIE

201

still halfway back!

FERGIE
(panting)
Twelve... eleven -

He FALLS! He tries to get up. His SHIRT is caught on the conduit! He struggles, in a panic, but - keeps counting!

FERGIE(cont'd)
Ten! Oh, God, Nine! Dredd! Dredd, help me! EIGHT! FOR GOD'S SAKE-

202 DREDD - CLOSE

202

He looks outside - so close - looks back - so far - it's impossible to save Fergie!

FERGIE(cont'd)
FIVE! DREDDDDDD! FOUR!

Dredd looks down - SEES

203 THE CONDUIT UNDER HIS FEET

203

FERGIE(cont'd)
THREE!

CAMERA RAKES back. Fergie's caught on the same conduit!

204 RESUME DREDD

204

With all the strength in his body, he RIPS the conduit free from the floor - YANKS it forward -

205 FERGIE

205

As he shouts "TWO" he is whipped forward like a trout on a line!

206 CITY MOUTH OF TUBE - NIGHT

206

Fergie flies past Dredd, howling -

FERGIE
ONE!

And, as a FIREBALL ROLLS RIGHT BEHIND THEM, Dredd dives out of the opening behind Fergie!

7 DREDD

Has landed half-buried in a mound of ashes. He looks around.

DREDD
Fergie?

Dredd hears a muffled SOUND beneath him. He reaches down... YANKS Fergie into view. Fergie spits out a mouthful of ashes.

FERGIE
I'm alive. I'm alive!
(seeing Dredd, less enthusiastic)
Oh. So are you.

CUT TO:

208 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - NIGHT 208

Chief Justice Griffin, Council Judges McGruder, Espositio and Yamamoto. A MESSENGER hands a data-pad to Yamamoto, leaves.

ESPOSITO
(stricken)
Latest casualty report.
(pause)
Ninety-six Judges have been assassinated.

MCGRUDER
Whoever's doing it knows all our procedures... our security measures...even our scrambled frequencies - !

ESPOSITO
Now the street criminals are taking advantage of the situation. It's a nightmare!

YAMAMOTO
Hell, it's a Goddamn revolution!

MCGRUDER
We can't replace those Judges! It takes years of training! We may never be at full strength again!

GRIFFIN
There is a solution.
(on their desperate looks)
Project Janus...

(CONTINUED)

78 CONTINUED: 208

MCGRUDER
(furious)
Chief Justice Griffin. Just mentioning that is grounds for Impeachment!

YAMAMOTO
We tried to play God once! It almost destroyed the Council - !

GRIFFIN
If this wholesale slaughter of Judges continues, there won't be a council! Janus could -

ESPOSITO
Come on, Griffin! A new batch of test tube babies won't solve this crisis! We don't need reliable Judges 20 years from now when they're grown! We need them today!

GRIFFIN
There's been over thirty years of genetic research since Janus failed. What if we could create adult subjects, fully grown and fully trained at birth? We could replace the Judges we've lost in weeks. We could save our society!

ESPOSITO
Who knows if that's even possible?

MCGRUDER
Who knows if it's safe?

GRIFFIN
(pointing)
Central does. All I'm asking is that we unlock the Janus files and ask. That way, we at least have an option.
(pause)
Please, let us find out. If the Council decides not to go forward... I'll accept that decision... and resign.

He has their attention.

CUT TO:

EXT/INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - NIGHT 209

WORKERS are still cleaning up after the earlier EXPLOSION. A HAND reaches into SHOT, steals UNIFORMS and EQUIPMENT...

CUT TO:

210 INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT 210

Dredd - in a stolen uniform - marches Fergie "under guard" through the building.

FERGIE
(whispering)
This is a mistake.

DREDD
(also whispering)
Judges don't make mistakes.

FERGIE
But Fargo said you couldn't trust Griffin -

DREDD
I don't. But I trust the Council. When I tell them about Rico... they'll listen.

A JUDGE they pass peers at them, but doesn't speak. They round the corner.

FERGIE
Just don't get us killed, Dredd. I still want that apology.

211 thru 212 213 OMITTED 211 thru 212 213

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - NIGHT

The Judges have all gathered around Central. One by one, they step up, speak, put their thumb in Central's scanner.

GRIFFIN
Griffin, Douglas. Chief Justice. Authorize access to file, code name "Janus".

CENTRAL
Acknowledged.

JUDGE MCGRUDER
McGruder, Evelyne. Council Judge. Authorize access to file, code name "Janus".

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: 213

CENTRAL
Acknowledged.

ON SCREEN, GRAPHICS show the SOFTWARE LOCKS being removed one by one from the Janus Files.

JUDGE ESPOSITO
Esposito, Carlos. Council Judge. Authorize access to file, code name "Janus".

CENTRAL
Acknowledged.

YAMAMOTO
Yamamoto, Gerald. Council Judge. Authorize access to file, code name "Janus".

CENTRAL
I have unanimous authorization for access to file, code name "Janus". Removing security blocks...NOW. Awaiting Password command from Presiding Chief Justice.

CLOSE ON GRIFFIN 214

We tighten on him. He's been waiting for this moment.

GRIFFIN
Password...Janus.

Griffin moves in front of the machine, speaks tersely.

GRIFFIN(cont'd)
Central: Using current technology, how long would it take for Janus to produce a fully grown adult subject?

CENTRAL
Given the current state of genetic engineering an adult subject could be incubated in approximately eight hours.

ASTONISHMENT in the room.

CUT TO:

INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - NIGHT 215

Dredd and Fergie are almost at one of the Council Chamber doors. PAN BACK. The Judge who stared at them earlier is following them!

CUT TO:

216 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - RESUME 216

GRIFFIN
(to central)
In what quantity could these subjects be produced?

CENTRAL
Although only two subjects were produced in the original experiment, the laboratory was equipped with 20 incubators. If fully operational, 420 subjects could be produced a week.

YAMAMOTO
My God. We could replace our losses in a day -

MCGRUDER
You aren't considering this madness?

YAMAMOTO
No... I'm just reacting to the possibility... a frightening possibility.

ESPOSITO
Yes. I for one... think this is an idea that should be forgotten.

MCGRUDER
I agree. Judge Griffin, please restore the Security Blocks. (X)

GRIFFIN
I see, now, that none of you have the force of will that these terrible times require. You will never open Janus again. So... we'll just leave it... unlocked.

216A EXT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - NIGHT 216A

Dredd is about to open the door when a HAND spins him around. It's the Judge who followed him!

(CONTINUED)

216A CONTINUED: 216A

JUDGE
Dredd! I thought it was y--

That's all he says before Dredd K.O.'s him!

216B INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - RESUME - NIGHT 216B

McGruder stands, furious.

MCGRUDER
Griffin, this is treason! You just sealed your fate!

GRIFFIN
No. You've just sealed yours. Rico!

217 RICO 217

steps into the room.

218 BACK TO SCENE 218

MCGRUDER
(in shock)
Rico - !

All the Judges go for their Lawgivers. But it's too late. Rico OPENS FIRE on FULL AUTOMATIC.

219 NEW ANGLE - FAVORING GRIFFIN 219

Griffin averts his eyes from the moment he orchestrated. Finally the gunfire STOPS. CAMERA ADJUSTS. Rico stands, smoking gun in hand.

RICO
Who says politics is boring?

DREDD'S VOICE
NOOOOOOOO - !

Rico whirls, looks at

220 DREDD - HIS POV - AT ANOTHER DOOR 220

He has arrived in time to see the murders! With another SCREAM of fury, He LEAPS over the fallen Judge who tried to stop him -makes a running tackle at Rico!

WIDER 221

Dredd takes Rico to the floor. They both roll over and over.

DREDD
MURDERING SON OF A BITCH - !

222 GRIFFIN 222

tries to get a shot at Dredd, can't. Then Griffin hears ALARMS, SHOUTS, running footsteps. Griffin steps quickly in, KICKS Dredd in the head.

GRIFFIN
(to Rico)
Get out of here, now!

Hearing people coming, Rico obeys.

223 FAVORING DREDD 223

He shakes his head, gets up - sees Rico is gone, but Griffin is close. Moves forward -

DREDD
You're mine.

GRIFFIN
Really?

For a moment we think he's going to shoot. Then he turns his gun - points it at his own arm - fires!

224 DREDD 224

totally thrown by the maneuver, he hesitates. Behind, him, the Judge Hunters rush in, see the shocking scene: The dead council - the wounded Chief Justice clutching at his own bloody arm -

GRIFFIN
Stop him! He just killed the entire council!

Dredd realizes he's fucked. He turns, runs. The Judge Hunters pause near their wounded leader, who bravely waves them on. They tear after Dredd like wolves.

225 INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT 225

Dredd tears around the corner! Fergie appears from behind the hiding place he ducked into at the first shots!

FERGIE
Dredd! Tell them I'm innocent!

(CONTINUED)

225 CONTINUED: 225

BULLETS rip up the wall, just missing him. Dredd grabs him by the collar and they both CRASH through doors marked "ACADEMY AND CLASSROOMS".

226 INT. ACADEMY TRAINING CENTER - NIGHT 226

BULLETS whiz past Dredd and Fergie's heads. They turn another corner, surprise a NIGHT WATCHMAN engaged in the ancient night watchman pursuit of eating a sandwich and reading a girlie magazine.

NIGHT WATCHMAN
Hey - !

That's all he gets out. Dredd hi-blocks him, barrels past.

227 THE WATCHMAN 227

falls, dazed. His stiff, plastic paged copy of "MEGA-SEX" lands on the floor, a 3-D animated holo pinup still posing above the open pages.

228 WITH DREDD AND FERGIE - INDOOR TRAINING CENTER - NIGHT 228

They enter the training center and Dredd runs right towards the Mark IV Lawmaster! Leaps into the saddle and kicks over the engine! Spins around and heads back the way he came, grabbing Fergie en route!

229 INT. TRAINING CENTER - ANOTHER ANGLE 229

The night watchman gets up in time to almost be run over. Dredd continues past him just as the pursuing guards appear here.

Dredd drives right at them! They scatter! He turns again towards a wide open corridor - but the Judge Hunters appear there, and they're smart enough to take cover behind the archway, and pour on an awesome fusillade!

230 DREDD 230

Turns again - he's flanked! He spins on the bike, takes the only direction left: Back into the training room - a dead end. All the Judges and Guards follow, BLASTING away.

231 ON THE BIKE - WITH DREDD AND FERGIE - MOVING 231

He races directly for the WALL! His fingers stretch out, hit a control marked "CANNON".

231A BIKE - NEW ANGLE 231A

CANNON click into view.... FIRE!

BACK TO SCENE 231B

A HOLE is blasted in the wall! Now we SEE Mega-City -hundreds of stories below us!

FERGIE
Dredd..? Dredd, you're not gonna--

Dredd hits the button marked "AERIAL MODE". There's a BEEP and the SOUND FX we heard earlier... when the flying prototype failed.

DREDD
(a prayer)
Please work.

The indifferent half hearted SOUND of the Aerial Mode lifters isn't encouraging. They just GROAN.

DREDD(cont'd)
Pleaseworkpleaseworkpleasework--

FERGIE
OhGodohGodohGodohGod --

CRASH! They go through the irregular hole!

EXT. JUDGE'S COMPLEX - NIGHT 232

Dredd and Fergie fly out of the building on the Lawmaster Mark IV. Barely hanging on, they fall silently through the air, glass spinning all around them.

The bike begins to turn a somersault.

DREDD(cont'd)
Pleasssssssssse -

And then - the Aerial Mode Lifters kick in with an EERIE WHINE. The flying motorcycle comes out of its roll with a BLAST of rockets - and roars upwards!

INT. ACADEMY TRAINING ROOM - NIGHT 233

The Judge Hunters REACT as the bike disappears in an instant, streaking across the sky like a comet!

OMITTED 234 thru 235

INT. GRIFFIN'S OFFICE - NIGHT 236

A MEDIC leaves. Griffin, bandaged, turns as Rico comes out of hiding.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: 236

RICO
Why didn't you kill him when you had the chance?

GRIFFIN
It's better with him on the loose. He'll keep the surviving street Judges preoccupied while we work on Janus.
(turning)
Central. Prepare the Janus Lab for full operation. And... while you're at it... I'd like to appoint Judge Rico to the Council of Judges.

CENTRAL
(guarded)
That may present some legal difficulties, since Judge Rico killed the entire Council of Judges.
(pause)
May I suggest you Pardon him, and then appoint him? That would meet the legal requirements.

GRIFFIN
Excellent suggestion, Central. Do it.

CENTRAL
It's done. Council Judge Rico, may I be the first to offer my congratulations?

RICO
Central... I'm touched.

CUT TO:

237 INT. HERSHEY'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT 237

Moving carefully, Dredd and Fergie walk down the corridor. Dredd's still in the stolen uniform. They come to a nameplate with Hershey's name on it. We WIDEN. The door has been forced open.

238 NEW ANGLE 238

Dredd and Fergie look at each other. Dredd swings the Remington out of hiding, steps inside.

9 INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT 23

A total wreck. Electronic equipment still SIZZLES here. Dredd lifts a viewie of Hershey and some friends from the Academy. The three women LAUGH and wave as he touches it.

FERGIE
I guess you're out of friends, Dredd.

240 NEW ANGLE 240

Hershey, weapon in hand, steps inside. She's battered, beat up, and edgy. The way the light hits the room she can only see one figure.

HERSHEY
Up against the wall, now!

The figure complies. It's Fergie.

HERSHEY
(recognizing him)
Ferguson. You're the hacker we arrested. What are you doing here?

FERGIE
I'm with him.

Dredd steps into the light.

HERSHEY
Dredd!

For a moment she's elated. Then her face hardens. She holds the gun steady.

HERSHEY(cont'd)
Stay where you are.

DREDD
Hershey. What is it - ?

HERSHEY
They're dying out there, Dredd. A hundred and eight Judges in 48 hours. Everyone who's left is on triple shifts and pseudorphin. I thought it was organized criminals, revolutionaries, something... then I was a target.

DREDD
You think I'm part of this - ?

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: 240

HERSHEY
I don't know what to think anymore.

Dredd moves like lightning - pins her gun hand against the wall - then freezes. It's a challenge, not a threat. She glares at him - counter moves - gets an elbow against his throat! But Dredd doesn't break her hold - or turn the gun on her. It's deliberate check-mate on both their parts.

DREDD
(quietly)
Do you really think I'd hurt you?

HERSHEY
Secrets can hurt more than anything.

She relaxes her hold on him. Throws something down.

241 NEW ANGLE 241

It's the picture of Dredd and Rico.

HERSHEY(cont'd)
Tell me about him, Dredd. Make me believe in you again the way I did when I defended you.

DREDD
(slowly)
His name is Rico. And he killed like this once before, nine years ago.

HERSHEY
And he's doing it again?

DREDD
Him... and Griffin.

HERSHEY
Griffin? We have to tell the Council - !

DREDD
There is no Council, Hershey: They were all murdered an hour ago.

242 HERSHEY 242

She's been on her feet for days and this is the last psychic blow. She sags. Dredd catches her.

CUT TO:

243 INT. HERSHEY'S APT. BEDROOM - LATER 243

Hershey is on what's left of the bed. She holds a cup of coffee, more interested in its warmth than its contents. Dredd is nearby. With the borrowed helmet off, we see how haggard he looks. In the other room, Fergie putters with the wrecked computer.

HERSHEY
(softly)
Clones. Clones, from a genetic laboratory.
(pause, wryly)
I guess I wasn't so bad in court after all. That's why the DNA convicted you. You and Rico are...

DREDD
The same. Inhuman. Defective. He just broke down first.

HERSHEY
No!

DREDD
How many times have you said I had no feelings, no emotions? Now you know why. (X)

HERSHEY
(gently)
Dredd. Children were born in laboratories, even back in the twentieth century... test tube babies, in vitro fertilization. No one ever questioned <u>their</u> humanity -

DREDD
It's not the same! They had parents, they embraced their humanity... they didn't hide it... fight it... question it!

HERSHEY
Dredd. The Janus project didn't do that to you. <u>You did that to yourself</u>.

He turns, startled. Realizes she's right.

DREDD
(almost in wonder)
Myself. Griffin. Fargo. Even Fergie. I've been wrong about so much...

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED: 243

HERSHEY
Never the Law, Dredd. Never the Law.

That means more than anything else she can say to him. He looks into her eyes. Fergie comes in, ends the moment.

FERGIE
You can forget the terminal out here. We're gonna have to go somewhere else to get in the System.

DREDD
(after a moment)
Hershey. You just said I was never wrong about the Law. They took away my badge. I'm a convicted murderer. I have no authority any more - no legal authority.

Pause. Without the law as a safety net, Dredd is in uncharted emotional territory.

DREDD(cont'd)
Will...will you help me, Hershey? Not as a Judge but... but... as my friend?

It's the most ordinary request anyone could make... anyone but Dredd. Hershey understands how much it means. She fights back tears, puts her hand on his arm.

HERSHEY
I'd be honored.

Dredd reaches over, squeezes her hand. There's absolutely nothing sexual about it - and that makes it even more powerful.

CUT TO:

244 INT. JANUS LAB - NIGHT 244

Rico is at the main control console. Behind him, Ilsa is tinkering with a cleaning droid.

CENTRAL
The DNA sample has been taken out of frozen stasis. I am ready to begin the cloning process.

RICO
Slight change of plans, Central. I want to purge that DNA sample.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: 24

Ilsa looks up startled as the computer WHIRRS.

CENTRAL
DNA sample purged. If you wish to proceed with cloning, I will require a new sample.

ILSA
What are you doing?

RICO
The same thing you are: House-cleaning.

Mock-annoyed, she throws a cleaning rag at him. She turns on the droid. It moves off, polishing the floor. Curious, she joins Rico.

RICO(cont'd)
Central, active the DNA sampling console.

Behind Rico, another CONSOLE lights up. Rico crosses to it, passing by his pet robot.

WITH RICO 24

CENTRAL
The sampling console is ready.

Rico rips his sleeve open to the elbow... sits down... puts his upturned arm in a special steel hollow. CHUNG! CLAMPS close, hold his arm down.

RICO(cont'd)
Central. Take DNA sample...<u>now</u>.

WHIRR! A DRILL LIKE DEVICE descends with a frightening grind -and STABS right into his arm!

246 ILSA 246

jumps, startled - a fleck of BLOOD splatters on her clothes-

247 BACK TO SCENE 247

The drill like device retreats while another automated device slaps a plasti-bandage on Rico's arm. The clamps OPEN.

CENTRAL
New DNA sample being analyzed. Scanning. Matrix scan complete.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: 247

Rico pulls Ilsa into his arms.

RICO(cont'd)
Kiss me, Professor. I'm gonna be a father.

CUT TO:

248 ACADEMY DORM - MULTI-MEDIA PODS - NIGHT 248

DARK, except for a glow in a cubicle at a bend in the corridor. CAMERA creeps towards the light. Meanwhile, we HEAR the following:

DREDD'S VOICE
Central, I order you to give me the location of the Janus Lab, immediately!

By now the CAMERA is in Olmeyer's student pod. Olmeyer, Fergie and Hershey are in a corner, watching and whispering. Dredd is on the other side of the cubicle, at a Central Station. He's wearing his own helmet and badge again. (X)

CENTRAL
I am sorry, but the location of the Janus Lab is classified information, accessible only to Chief Justice Griffin and Council Judge Rico.

DREDD
(exploding)
Rico? He's a Council Judge now?

CENTRAL
Actually, the only Council Judge. Chief Justice Griffin promoted him so they could both use me to get the Janus Lab up and running.

DREDD
You're helping them?

CENTRAL
Of course. They are the highest ranking surviving Judges in Mega-City. I am programmed to obey them.

DREDD
But they're breaking the law! Who the hell programmed you?

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: 2

CENTRAL
Lawyers.
(patiently)
Chief Justice Griffin and Council Judge Rico are my lawful superiors unless and until criminal charges are filed against them.

DREDD
Fine! I'll file charges!

CENTRAL
(chiding)
Now, we've already been over that one: You're not a Judge anymore and you can't file charges.

Flash of inspiration. Dredd excitedly signals Hershey.

HERSHEY
Central. This is Judge Hershey. I hereby file formal charges of murder against Chief Justice Griffin and Council Judge Rico. And I order you to give me the location of the Janus Lab so that I may personally make the arrest!

CENTRAL
Certainly, Judge Hershey. However, as per Mega-City Code Section 84, Paragraph "A", I need authorization from the Chief Justice to arrest a Council Judge. Similarly, as stated in Paragraph "B", same Section, I need authorization from any Council Judges to arrest a Chief Justice. In this case, that would be Chief Judge Griffin and Council Judge Rico.

DREDD
(thrown)
We need permission from them to arrest...them?

CENTRAL
Basically... yes. And without their authorization you cannot file charges, and without charges I cannot violate Security and tell you the location of the Lab.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (2) 248

CENTRAL (Cont'd)
(pause)
I hope this is finally clear. If there aren't any other requests, may I close this work station? These last few days have been a strain and I really need to defrag.

The work station SHUTS DOWN. Dredd turns.

DREDD
Fergie, you've got to have something - a password, a kluge -

FERGIE
Central's a fuzzy A.I. - the best fuzzy A.I. ever built. If reasoning didn't work...
(pause, helpless)
...nothing will.

DREDD
Come on, you cracked the food robot... the shuttle computer -

FERGIE
Simple systems, Dredd! Besides, I was scared.

DREDD
Scared..?

FERGIE
Well, yeah. Those were life or death situations. That's when my adrenalin shoots up and my brain goes into overtime - but you can't predict when that's gonna -

Dredd grabs him, tucks him under his arm like a newspaper, and leaves the pod.

FERGIE
Hey!

The others are so surprised it's a second before they follow. (X)

9 INT. STUDENT CENTER - CORRIDOR 24

Dredd strides down the hallway, holding Fergie up in the air. (X)

DREDD
First that Goddamn computer turned on me. Then, you! (X)

CRASH! Fergie's head hits a LIGHT FIXTURE. The bulb EXPLODES. (X)

FERGIE
Dredd, have you gone craz- OW! (X)

Dredd steers him into another hanging FIXTURE. And ANOTHER. (X)

FERGIE
Dredd! Stop it - OW! Are you out of your - OW! (X)

HERSHEY
Dredd, you're scaring him! (X)

DREDD
That's the idea! (X)

Another BULB EXPLODES. (X)

FERGIE
Damn it, Dredd, Lemme down! I'm hitting every Goddamn - (X)

250 FERGIE - CLOSE 250

Even in this position, we can SEE the flash of inspiration on Fergie's face. (X)

FERGIE(cont'd)
(finishing the thought)
- light!

251 HIS POV - MEGA-CITY LIGHTS 251

Outside the nearby window, a galaxy of illumination. (X)

FERGIE'S VOICE
- the city lights...!

252 BACK TO SCENE 252

FERGIE(cont'd)
I GOT IT! LEMME DOWN! (X)

Dredd instantly obeys. Fergie's actually excited. He races back to the student pod, the others right behind him. He pulls Hershey's sleeve. (X)

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED: 252

FERGIE(cont'd)
Have it show you the city power grid!

HERSHEY
Central! I need to see the city power grid!

CENTRAL
(coming alive)
Certainly, Judge Hershey. I'm glad we've finally changed the subject.

The first level of the city power grid comes up. Like the first page of the Thomas Guide, it's very general and low on detail.

FERGIE
(into her ear)
Tell it to scan around all the grid sections. Random selection.

HERSHEY
Scan through all the grid sections. Random selection.

RAPID IMAGES now: Different neighborhoods of Mega-City, all depicted as COMPUTER GRAPHICS of color and pattern.

OLMEYER (X)
(whisper)
What are we doing?

DREDD
(getting it, a whisper)
The Lab was top secret. It had to be in an out of the way place to stay secret. Right? (X) (X)

FERGIE
(nodding)
Out of the way places have low power demands. But a Genetic Lab would suck power like a motherfu-

DREDD
(seeing something)
STOP!

HERSHEY
STOP!

They all rush forward, look at the grid. It's mostly DARK, just specks of light - but there's one PULSING HOT SPOT.

(CONTINUED)

252 CONTINUED: (2) 25

DREDD
Red Quad, Section 5: The oldest part of Mega-City.

Olmeyer turns, looks off. (X)

OLMEYER (X)
Did you hear something?

CENTRAL
It's probably just the Judge Hunters.

DREDD
What?

CENTRAL
When I was off-line a moment ago, Judge Griffin asked me if I knew where you were. Naturally, I told him yes, and gave him your location.

OLMEYER (X)
Get out, quick - !

HERSHEY
What about you -

OLMEYER (X)
I'll tell them you forced me to help you, get out!

SOUNDS of pursuit are closer. Fergie yanks Dredd's arm. They leave. At the last moment, Hershey spontaneously kisses Olmeyer. Needless to say, he's thrilled. (X)

253 WIDER 253

As Dredd & Co. break to leave they're momentarily visible in the bend of the corridor. SHOTS ring out. Olmeyer makes his decision. He jumps into the aisle, starts FIRING. (X)

OLMEYER (cont'd) (X)
(over his shoulder)
Hershey, run!

He charges forward, firing again and again, handling the weapon like an expert!

254 THE FOUR JUDGE HUNTERS 254

Totally caught by surprise, they FIRE BACK for a second, but then Olmeyer's fusillade of RICOCHETING BULLETS sends them diving for cover! (

255 DREDD, HERSHEY AND FERGIE 255

Almost at the flying cycle. Hershey hesitates at the shots. Dredd grimly pushes her towards the bike.

256 OLMEYER 256

Gun empty, he dives for cover. Three of the Judge Hunters barrel past and the forth cracks him over the head and kicks away the weapon.

257 THE FLYING CYCLE 257

ROARS into the sky! For the second time, the Judge Hunters are too late!

258 WITH ONE OF THE JUDGE HUNTERS 258

While his comrades radio-report, he angrily stalks back to where Olmeyer is sitting on the floor under guard. (X)

JUDGE HUNTER
You're under arrest, cadet. Anything you say will be held against you.

Woozy from the blow to the head, Olmeyer nods, pleased. (X)

OLMEYER (X)
Judge Hershey.

CUT TO:

259 DOOR TO JANUS LAB - NIGHT 259

Griffin comes in, sees Rico and Ilsa. Crosses quickly towards them.

GRIFFIN
Dredd got away from the Hunters. He could be on his way here right now!

RICO
Don't worry. He's going to be seriously outnumbered. Right, Central?

COMPUTER
Correct, Council Judge Rico. The new DNA sample has been multi-plexed and the gametes are already dividing.

(CONTINUED)

259 CONTINUED: 259

GRIFFIN
(stunned)
New sample..? What the hell's going on?

RICO
Hey, That old DNA was in there for over 30 years. Sooner or later you gotta clean out the fridge.

GRIFFIN
(furious)
That sample was created from the finest specimens on the Council of Judges! What did you replace it with?

Rico just smiles.

GRIFFIN(cont'd)
My God. You?

RICO
Can you think of a better model? Sleek lines... strong chassis. Corners on the curves.

ILSA
I've test driven him. It's true.

260 RICO AND GRIFFIN - TWO SHOT 260

Griffin pulls Rico away from her, talks in a desperate whisper.

GRIFFIN
Rico. You don't know what you're doing! Software or wetware, when you make reproductions, there's always the danger of a defective copy! The last time, there was one perfect copy -

RICO
Me.

GRIFFIN
Dredd! And one defective copy -you! You had a mutation, on the Y chromosone...

RICO
Yes. A mutation that made me the next step in human evolution.

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED: 260

GRIFFIN
A mutation that made you a genetic criminal!

RICO
Really? What's your excuse?

GRIFFIN
Rico, for God's sake, listen! You're a defective copy yourself! And now you're making more copies that will be even more mutated -more twisted -

RICO
You're lying! All you care about is control! Well, the next batch of Janus Judges won't be the puppets you want... they'll be my brothers and sisters, mine to control!

GRIFFIN
(voice hushed)
...sisters?

RICO
Why not? I'm going to breed some more of me... the old fashioned way.

ILSA
I'd like to be a fly on that wall.

RICO
You will be.

261 GRIFFIN 261

Looks from Rico to Ilsa and back again, suddenly seeing them clearly for the first time.

GRIFFIN
My God. I never should have started this. Never. But now I'll finish it -

He draws his Lawgiver! But it has barely cleared the holster when the ABC robot grabs Griffin's wrist! It plucks the weapon from his hand as if he's a child, hangs on to him!

RICO
Griffy. You shouldn't have done that. Fido is very loyal.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The robot grabs Griffin with its other hand. He's completely off the ground now.

GRIFFIN
(struggling)
Let me go! Central! Help me!

CENTRAL
I'm sorry, Chief Justice. The ABC robot is not tied into my main processor. Judge Rico has sole voice control.

RICO
That's right, Griff. You gotta get with this hi-tech stuff. Robot: Tear off Judge Griffin's arms and legs. Save his head for last.

CAMERA ADJUSTS as Griffin SCREAMS with fear - and then, as we TIGHTEN on Rico and Ilsa, and we SEE the horrible SHADOWS on the wall, the screams become far, far worse.

Rico watches with wincing amusement, like a spectator at a particularly rough hockey game.

Ilsa watches with a sick fascination and awe.

Finally the screams and horrible wrenching sounds STOP. There's a THUD. The robot returns to position, metal hands stained.

RICO
(offhand)
Central. Where were we?

CENTRAL
Before we go on, um... may I assume that Judge Griffin has uh... retired from duty?

RICO
You may so assume.

CENTRAL
I... see.
(not thrilled)
Well, in the uh, absence of any other um... surviving Council Judges, you are now the Presiding Chief Justice.
(pause)
How may I serve you?

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: (2) 261

RICO
(smiling)
Send in the Clones.

LIGHTS, ACTION. The Lab is completely on line.

CENTRAL
The clone incubators are on-line. The first batch of clones from your personal DNA can be hatched in eight hours. Chief Justice Rico, how many copies of you would you like?

RICO
Let's start with... a thousand.

CAMERA ADJUSTS to show the INCUBATORS as they begin to fill with PROTOPLASM.

CENTRAL
Beginning Cloning process...now.

And as an EIGHT HOUR COUNTDOWN begins, we

CUT TO:

2 EXT. RED QUAD, SECTION 5 - NIGHT 262

The oldest part of the city, with buildings and architecture from our era and even earlier. CAMERA DOLLIES back. The Flying Lawmaster has just landed, DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF CAMERA.

Hershey checks her Lawgiver. Dredd swing-cocks the Remington like a Western Hero.

FERGIE
This looks like a really bad neighborhood. I'll stay here and watch the bike -

DREDD
(dragging him)
We might need you to shut down the Janus system.

FERGIE
I knew you were gonna say that.

DREDD
(to Hershey)
Down there?

She checks a SCANNER.

(CONTINUED)

262 CONTINUED: 262

HERSHEY
Down there.

CAMERA ZOOMS BACK. They're on the partially ruined HEAD of the STATUE OF LIBERTY! Now, they DESCEND into the torso. (X) (X)

263 INT. STATUE OF LIBERTY - TORSO - NIGHT 263

Dredd, Hershey and Fergie move down through the long-neglected monument. BATS flutter past. Only Fergie ducks.

FERGIE
(swatting cobwebs)
This is fraggy. No one's been up here in a hundred years.

HERSHEY
(checking scanner)
Someone's sure down below. Power Surge... this way.

264 REVERSE ANGLE 264

They come down to a CURVED LANDING. They walk along the curve... to a dead end. More BEEPS. Everyone tenses.

HERSHEY
(puzzled)
No wait, it moved... over to...

As she turns to look around, the ABC Robot LUNGES OUT OF THE SHADOWS, grabs her off her feet! She drops her Lawgiver and scanner!

HERSHEY
DREDD!

265 NEW ANGLE 265

The robot holds Hershey with one hand - opens FIRE with the other! Fergie is hit! Dredd throws the wounded hacker to relative safety - swings up the ancient Remington - FIRES at the robot!

266 HERSHEY - IN THE ROBOT'S GRASP 266

She flinches even though she knows Dredd is aiming around her. But Dredd's 30-30 bullets barely dent the robot!

267 WIDER 267

Man and robot advance on each other like Hong Kong gunmen, BLASTING AWAY. Dredd's shots BOUNCE off the Robot's armor!

(CONTINUED)

267 CONTINUED: 267

Some of the Robot's shots miss Dredd - some bounce off Dredd's armor - and one shot wings Dredd's shoulder. But Dredd KEEPS ON COMING!

268 THE ROBOT'S LEG 268

a bullet hits a tendon-like CONTROL WIRE! It SNAPS!

269 BACK TO SCENE 269

With an electronic SCREAM the robot GOES DOWN! But it hangs onto Hershey! Suddenly a PNEUMATIC DOOR slides OPEN. Rico and Ilsa are there, backlit. Both armed.

RICO
Enough. Dredd. Drop your gun.

DREDD
No.
(starting to aim)
Edsel, here still has another kneecap -

The ROBOT looks sharply at Dredd.

RICO
Amusing. Robot. On a count of three... break Judge Hershey's neck. One... two...

Bad leg groaning, the Robot STANDS - tenses. Dredd throws down the Remington beside Hershey's Lawgiver. Ilsa comes over to the weapons. She picks up the REMINGTON... starts to reach for the Lawgiver...

270 DREDD AND HERSHEY 270

sneak a glance towards each other...

271 BACK TO SCENE 271

Suddenly Ilsa grins. Laughs... and kicks it away.

RICO
She's such a tease.
(harsher)
Inside.

Dredd is taken away. CHUNG. The Pneumatic door closes, leaving Hershey and Fergie in darkness with the robot.

2 INT. JANUS LAB - WITH DREDD 2

He's marched between Rico and Ilsa.

ILSA
(off Dredd)
He looks a lot like you.

RICO
He is a lot like me.

DREDD
I'm nothing like you.

RICO
The only difference between us, Joseph, is that you destroyed your life when you embraced the Law. I destroyed the Law and embraced... life!

273 DREDD - CLOSE 273

Dredd reacts, startled to hear this twisted version of his own earlier words.

RICO'S VOICE(cont'd)
And speaking of life... behold.

A SWITCH is thrown -

274 JANUS LAB - VERY WIDE - NIGHT 274

For the first time we SEE it, fully operational, fully lit, gleaming with cold efficiency. Despite himself, Dredd is impressed. Rico dances into the great room, expansive. Ilsa nudges Dredd forward.

RICO
This is where we were born, brother! Can you feel the magic? Come... come, see where we began.

275 WITH DREDD 275

Drawn despite himself, he stands beside Rico, head turned up like his clone brother's. They never looked more alike. Dredd looks into the glass of the Incubator Chambers just above him. Inside, still forming HUMAN SHAPES, male and female, suspended in milky fluid.

RICO(cont'd)
Look at them. Full of promise. The dawn of the new day.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

275 CONTINUED: 275

RICO(Cont'd)
(pause, turning)
The dawn of a new species.

CUT TO:

276 INT. JANUS LAB - LANDING - NIGHT 276

The ABC stands guard, Hershey still in its metal grip. She struggles but can't free herself.

Fergie groans, opens his eyes. He presses one hand against his wound... then sees Hershey's predicament. Then he looks at the robot from head to toe...

CUT TO:

277 INT. JANUS LAB - NIGHT 277

Rico points to the other banks of incubators.

RICO
Our brothers and sisters will be born in two hours. 60 today... 60 tomorrow. An endless supply of perfection to guard Mega-City forever.
(turning, earnest)
Dredd. I can't train them alone... guide them alone. You can help me. You have to help me: It's your birthright. (X)

DREDD
You get nothing from me, Rico. You've betrayed the Law.

RICO
You... you dare mention betrayal to me? I was your friend. More then a friend! I was loyal to you... and you Judged me! You sent me up for nine years of frozen hell in Aspen! And you dare say "betrayal" to me?

He raises his Lawgiver, aims it between Dredd's eyes.

RICO
(dead serious)
Dredd. Give me your word you'll help me raise the kids. (X)

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: 2-

DREDD
When Aspen thaws, Rico. Go to hell.

Tense seconds. Rico grins boyishly, lowers the gun.

RICO
Aw. You knew I couldn't pull the trigger. We're family.

He steps back. His face hardens. He SHOUTS.

RICO(cont'd)
Fido!

278 NEW ANGLE 278

CHUNG. The pneumatic door OPENS. Limping on its bad leg, the robot clanks slowly into the room, still hanging onto Hershey.

Rico points at Dredd.

RICO(cont'd)
(pointing)
Rip his arms and legs off... one by one. Save his head for last.

The robot turns, clanks. Extends its free hand towards Dredd! Dredd backs up - into a wall! The robot keeps coming, moving between Rico and Ilsa - and then -THE ROBOT TURNS - BACKHANDS Rico!

279 NEW ANGLE 279

Rico flips over backwards, drops down a level! Ilsa runs forward - and the Robot knocks her aside, too!

280 DREDD 280

Astonished - until he SEES Fergie, hanging on the back of the robot, his hands deep inside it working its circuits!

FERGIE
(a cowboy)
Yee-HAH!

Now, there's one more SIZZLE and SPARK and the machine drops Hershey!

HERSHEY
Dredd! Catch!

She throws the Remington Ilsa dropped to Dredd!

1 DREDD 281

whirls, FIRES down at Rico. Rico dives for cover... manages to grab his Lawgiver! He FIRES back up at Dredd!

282 ILSA 282

jumps to her feet - right into Hershey's fist!

283 FERGIE 283

hangs on to the robot as it staggers around, trying to regain control of its own movements. It stumbles back out into the corridor. Fergie sees it's reaching for him! Desperate, Fergie reaches into the robot as far as he can, throws a SWITCH! ZAP!

284 THE ROBOT - NEW ANGLE 284

It PUNCHES its own FIST into its BRAIN. The head EXPLODES.

285 FERGIE 285

hits the floor, hard. Something inside him breaks. But he still has enough strength to look up and SEE

286 THE ROBOT - HIS POV 286

SMOKE billows from its head. Fist still buried to the wrist in a bizarre salute, it SLOWLY TOPPLES. CRASH!

FERGIE
Hack you... asshole.

Fergie slumps... lies still.

CUT TO:

287 ILSA AND HERSHEY 287

Continue to struggle hand to hand. Ilsa breaks free - goes into her blurring Karate moves - finishes as always with a savage KICK to the crotch -

288 HERSHEY - TILT UP FROM HER GROIN 288

Hershey just grins.

HERSHEY
You don't fight girls much, do you?

She grabs Ilsa's ankle, flips her!

CUT TO:

A RESUME DREDD 28

He's trying to keep Rico at bay, but he's clearly outgunned. Reloading behind cover, he SEES Fergie in the doorway. Crawls over to him. Fergie's ashen, his shirt soaked with blood.

DREDD
Fergie.

FERGIE
(weakly)
Say it, Dredd.

Pause. Then Dredd remembers.

DREDD
I.. I made a mistake. I... I'm sorry I misjudged you.

FERGIE
And you'll never arrest me again.

DREDD
And I'll never arrest you again.

FERGIE
Damn straight.

He dies. Dredd closes his eyes. CAMERA TIGHTENS on Dredd as his face fills with fury. He SEES Hershey's Lawgiver on the floor. Snatches it up! We CRANE UP with him as he COCKS it.

DREDD
RICOOOOOO!

He whirls, CHARGES into the open!

289 WITH DREDD - RUSHING FORWARD 289

He's a one man mobile artillery charge, AIMING, FIRING and shouting commands to his computerized weapon!

DREDD
DOUBLE-WHAMMY! BOOMERANG! SPIN DIZZY! HEAT SEEKER! ARMOR PIERCING!

290 REVERSE ANGLE 290

It's like a fireworks display as round after round of special bullet roars from Dredd's weapon, whirling all over the room! Mind totally blown, Rico tries to aim, but then the BULLETS start to seek him out! He turns...runs!

91 WITH RICO 291

He DIVES behind some consoles! Armor Piercing rounds chase him, punching holes just above his head. Equipment SPARKS and SMOKES. Rico takes cover, lowers his voice.

RICO
Central! Hatch the first set of clones, now!

CENTRAL
The cloning process is not finished, Chief Justice Rico. The Clones will be only 60 per cent complete.

RICO
Fuck that, I need reinforcements! Hatch the Goddamn clones, now!

CENTRAL
Beginning hatching process... now.
(pause; sotto)
I know we're going to regret this.

CAMERA RAKES to the incubators. They begin to open.

292 DREDD 292

COUGHS as he passes a smoking CONSOLE. Moves forward, feet CRUNCHING on glass.

293 OMITTED 293

294 HERSHEY AND ILSA 294

grappling, they roll into the workshop area. Hershey gets a choke hold on her. Ilsa grabs a wrench - smashes it overhead on Hershey! Hershey falls! Ilsa turns, KICKS her! Hershey tries to get to he feet. Ilsa moves in, ready to deliver the killing blow. And then - she SCREAMS.

295 NEW ANGLE 295

A CLONE is oozing out of an incubator right in front of her face! It's half formed, raw muscle and sinew barely covering bone!

296 WIDER 296

In shock, Ilsa backs away - drops the wrench! The clone, clumsy, FALLS. Hershey recoils from it in shock - recovers her wits - and tackles Ilsa!

CUT TO:

7 DREDD 2

fumbling along in the smoke. Suddenly another half-formed CLONE rears up in his face! It mews horribly, clutches at him! Dredd FIRES a burst at it. It falls away, vanishes in the smoke! (X)

298 RICO 298

whirls at the SHOT. FIRES at the muzzle flash! We HEAR a GROAN and a THUD. Grinning, Rico races in that direction. (X) (X)

299 thru 301 OMITTED 299 thru 301

302 HERSHEY AND ILSA 302

still fighting. Ilsa gets in one, two terrific blows. (X)

ILSA (X)
Bitch! (X)

HERSHEY (X)
Judge Bitch, to you! (X)

Hershey CLOBBERS her with a right! (X)

CUT TO:

WITH RICO 30

He rushes forward, elated. TILT DOWN to the body. It's one of the clones, dressed in parts of Dredd's uniform! (X) (X)

DREDD'S VOICE (X)
Rico. (X)

TILT UP. Dredd is on top of a big console. (X)

DREDD(cont'd) (X)
Here comes the Judge. (X)

He DIVES down on Rico! Each man grabs each other's wrists! The Lawgivers both FIRE wildly. Dredd and Rico carom off equipment, FALL! (X) (X) (X)

304 thru 305 OMITTED 304 thru 305

306 WIDER 306

A short stairwell breaks their fall - and separates them at the bottom! Rico rolls to his knees - still armed. Dredd is slowly coming towards him - unarmed! (X) (X) (X)

RICO
GRENADE!

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: 306

GUN VOICE
All lethal rounds exhausted.
Select.

RICO
STANDARD BULLET!

GUN VOICE
All lethal rounds exhausted.
Select.

Dredd is almost on top of him!

RICO
SMOKE BOMB!

He FIRES!

307 DREDD 307

The round HITS HIM like a pile driver! His SHIRT catches FIRE! He falls backwards over a railing as the SMOKE coils upwards!

308 RICO 308

RICO
Central! Turn off overhead lighting!

THUNK. The lights GO OUT. Rico grins, runs out of SHOT!

309 thru 310 311 OMITTED 309 thru 310 311

ILSA AND HERSHEY

Surprised by the darkness, Ilsa falls, sliding on the slick floor. TILT up. Hershey, limping, comes towards her.

Ilsa foot-sweeps her to the floor!

CUT TO:

312 DREDD 312

On the floor below, chest blackened, trying to catch his breath. He REACTS as the lights go out. Seeing a LIGHT in the smoke, he crawls to it. His face falls when he sees its one of Central's EYES.

DREDD
Central! Can you - (X)

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: 3

CENTRAL
Don't expect help from me, escaped-convict Dredd. I have explained your legal standing repeatedly. I advise you to surrender. (X)

DREDD
Okay, you win. I'll give myself up to Chief Justice Rico. Where is he? (X) (X) (X)

CENTRAL
(helpful)
Oh, he went upstairs.

The lights come ON.

CENTRAL(cont'd)
Straight ahead to your right.

Dredd's gone.

CUT TO:

EXT. STATUE OF LIBERTY - RUINED HEAD - NIGHT 312

Rico is starting the Lawmaster Mark IV.

DREDD'S VOICE
RICOOOO!

Rico turns, too late - Dredd's tackle takes him out of the saddle!

312B CLOSER 312B

They land on the edge of the ruined head! The Lawgiver skids out of reach! (X)

312C LONG SHOT 312C

High above the city, they trade punches! For a moment, Dredd has the advantage! (X)

DREDD
That's for Fargo! That's for the Council! That's for Fergie!
(pause)
Wait'll I get to me.

Then, even from this distance, we SEE Rico connect with Dredd's chest wound! Dredd almost folds!

312D CLOSE AGAIN 312D

Rico's almost as exhausted as Dredd. On the other hand... Dredd is in agony.

RICO
This... this is how you repay me (X)
for telling you the truth? That (X)
we were born with a destiny to rule! (X)
A destiny you spit on! (X)

Rico hits him on the wound again! Dredd falls, rolls to the edge of the rubble strewn platform. Rico grins, struggles to full height. (X)

RICO(cont'd)
(catching breath)
Joseph Dredd. I hereby Judge you. (X)
To the charge of betraying your best friend... GUILTY. To the charge of betraying your flesh... GUILTY.

Rico leans over the helpless Dredd. KICKS him. Dredd slips over the edge, dangles!

RICO
And finally... to the charge of being human when you could have been a God... GUILTY.

Rico picks up the Lawgiver. Puts it right against Dredd's head.

RICO(cont'd)
The sentence is DEATH!

CLICK.

GUN VOICE
All lethal rounds exhausted. Select.

312E UP ANGLE 312E

Dredd dares everything, GRABS Rico's HAND! Dredd's finger makes contact with the pistol grip.

GUN VOICE
DNA accepted. Select.

DREDD
Signal Flare!

And as he SHOUTS it, he uses his last strength to smack the weapon away!

312F WIDER 312F

The SIGNAL FLARE ROUND FIRES, like a ROCKET! Rico, off-balance, is knocked backwards! He falls SCREAMING to his death!

312G CLOSE ON DREDD 312G

He watches his brother fall. Starts to climb up... a boot steps on his hand. He looks up.

312H ILSA 312H

bruised, bloody - angry! Then - WHAM! A FIST SMASHES into her jaw!

312I WIDER 312I

Ilsa falls next to the Lawmaster IV. Hershey reaches down for Dredd's hand -

313 thru 319 OMITTED 313 thru 319

CUT TO:

320 DREDD AND HERSHEY - AT THE PNEUMATIC DOOR - LOWER LEVEL 320

Ilsa, cuffed, is on the floor, unconscious. Hershey helps support Dredd. They look at each other. Dredd looks back in the lab. Nods at Hershey. She raises her weapon. Speaks into it.

HERSHEY
Grenade.

She FIRES. BLAM! The incubators EXPLODE.

321 NEW ANGLE - LAB - WIDE 321

A CHAIN REACTION spreads through the lab. One by one, consoles and work stations ERUPT. The unborn clones SCREAM soundlessly as they burn.

322 PNEUMATIC DOOR 322

Weary, Dredd closes it. As it BLOCKS his FACE we GO TO -

322A EXT. BASE OF STATUE OF LIBERTY - NIGHT 322A

A CIRCLE OF LIGHT FORMS around Rico's body. We WIDEN. A squad of JUDGE HUNTERS has appeared on Lawmasters. Dredd and Hershey come into view.

DREDD
(to them)
It's over.

(CONTINUED)

A CONTINUED: 322A

OLMEYER'S VOICE (X)
They know, Judge Dredd.

322B NEW ANGLE 322B

Olmeyer is with them, a little banged up. (X)

OLMEYER(cont'd) (X)
They know, now.

The Judge Hunters put away their weapons. The leader approaches Dredd, salutes.

JUDGE HUNTER LEADER
You saved Mega-City, sir. You're a hero.

DREDD
No. Just a Judge. I did my job.

CAMERA ADJUSTS and we SEE that he is holding Fergie's body in his arms.

DREDD(cont'd)
Here's your hero.

The other Judges take Fergie's body respectfully. Hershey and (X)
Olmeyer approach Dredd. (X)

OLMEYER (X)
We have to reconstitute the Council, (X)
Judge Dredd. You should be on it. (X)

Dredd doesn't look convinced. Hershey, even less so. (X)

HERSHEY (X)
No. That's not for him. (X)
(turning) (X)
This is for him. (X)

CAMERA ADJUSTS. Olmeyer is holding Dredd's helmet. Hershey (X)
takes it, puts it on Dredd. For a moment the shot matches the (X)
one of Fargo and the two cadets just before his Long Walk. (X)

And then Dredd, too, turns and walks. Not into the wilderness: (X)
Into his City. As the CAMERA CRANES UP, we (X)

FADE OUT.

THE END